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Photograph by Rachel
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FIRST WORDS FROM THE EDITOR



Creating a decorating scheme...

is always a slightly tricky business: what do you start with – a paint colour, a piece of furniture you like, a favourite painting? In truth, it can be any of these things. I tend to choose the fabric first as that's often where pattern will be introduced and it will also provide a clue for wall and floor colours. In fact, I end up gathering pieces even when there is nowhere to use them. We have plenty of ideas to inspire you in this issue, from the eclectic and colourful items on our *Emporium* pages and a couple of fabulous houses (pages 88 and 114) to our stylish fabric special (page 18) showcasing a wonderful array of the latest designs selected by our homes team. Take your pick from traditional florals, simple block prints and mid-century modern-influenced geometrics.

Pattern is a priority for the entrepreneur featured in this month's *Let Your Talent Shine*. Inspired by a *Country Living* talk at the Hay Festival, Alison Porter decided to turn her delicate floral paintings into designs for fabric and wallpaper and she hasn't looked back – see the charming results on page 44. And don't forget to consider our wonderful new *Country Living* Paint Collection* when creating your own colour schemes.



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A collection of beautiful fabrics can bring an instant decorative element to the home, introducing both colour and pattern to stylish effect

STYLING AND WORDS BY ALAINA BINKS • ASSISTED BY BEN KENDRICK • PHOTOGRAPHS BY RACHEL WHITING



NATURE STUDY

Reflecting the fresh grassy greens, vivid limes, silvery teals and distinctive shapes of foliage, this tonal colour scheme is a classic decorating choice for a garden room. Here, a simple double-sided roll-up blind, in a block-printed leaf design backed with a narrow green pinstripe, allows the patterns to be enjoyed from both inside and out, while a delicate embroidered fabric makes pretty lightweight curtains. Sculptural ironwork furniture, traditionally used outside, is equally effective and practical for use indoors, and small seat pads provide extra comfort. A large wooden table offers a functional dining area or can double up as essential potting space, with a length of block-print-effect linen, cut and hemmed, creating a decorative but practical cloth.

For stockists, see page 28

OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

Carew teal linen-mix (BP10559), £95/m, GP&J Baker. Aylsham cotton (L-228), £96/m, Fermoie. Medina Palm linen, £84/m, Rapture & Wright. Leaf in green linen-cotton union, £142/m, Molly Mahon. Aylsham cotton
(L-238), £96/m,
Fermoie. Tickety Boo
striped cotton
(130800), £24/m,
Harlequin. Sorbus in
willow cotton-linen
mix, £39/m, lan
Sanderson. Lysander
embroidered cotton
(J661F-03), £66/m,
Jane Churchill

CONTRASTING TONES

To create a simple modern country look, mix relaxed linens in a soft monochromatic palette of charcoal, faded greys and fresh white. Fabrics with timeless small-scale prints, including stripes and checks, are easy to combine and add charming decorative detail when used informally as cloths over furniture or handmade into a patchwork wall hanging. A stripped wooden backdrop will soften the contrasting colour scheme.

Tor stockists, see page 28







Arrange fabric swatches of favourite designs, textures and colours to work out which combinations work cohesively before committing to the expense of buying full lengths. Textiles chosen from the same collection will coordinate well but don't be afraid of playing with styles and scales of pattern for a more distinctive scheme.

ABOVE RIGHT, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT

Little Stripe slate linen, £48/m, Cabbages & Roses. Helena charcoal linen (F0425/01), £19/m, Clarke & Clarke. Jacobean at Night charcoal linen, £72/m, Celia Birtwell. Elephant Stripe slate linen, £48/m, Cabbages & Roses. Cove Check charcoal linen
(F0344/01), £27/m,
Clarke & Clarke. Paris
Rose black linen,
£48/m, Cabbages &
Roses. Anopura Vanini
cotton-mix (MLF224604), £65/m, Lorca;
Ormond Ardee
cotton-mix (F669003), £69/m: both
Osborne & Little. Rug
(as background), £120,
Rockett St George



MIX AND MATCH

Connected by colours echoing golden harvest hues, this eclectic mix of illustrative hand-drawn prints, small geometrics and textured trellis designs creates an interesting effect. To make a subtle single colour scheme work, choose engaging patterns with texture, teaming small-scale and larger motifs together with reclaimed and bare wooden furniture. Two identical chairs look strikingly different with loose armchair covers made to fit in individual fabrics, producing a quirky, less predictable effect. Offset the muted tones with crisp white woodwork and hints of tweed and earthy browns, enhanced by matt copper and brass metallic accessories.

For stockists, see page 28



linen in dormouse, £48/m: both Vanessa Arbuthnott. Meadow's Edge stone/fennel linen, £54/m,

Sorbus saffron cotton-linen mix, £39/m, Ian Sanderson. Suvi hay linen (7616/04), £55/m,

Romo. Milson ticking ivory on natural linen, £72/m, Celia Birtwell. Andaluz pebble linen, £99/m, Carolina Irving at Redloh House Fabrics. Pippin linen-mix in lemon, £50.50/m, Voyage Decoration. Birch plywood birds, £5 each, Naomi Greaves



ALL IS CALM

In this pale room, the pretty, oversized dusty pink and teal rose design on the bedspread draws the eye, immediately making a focal point of the bed. To ensure the space remains calm and tranquil, use other bold prints sparingly - for example, on a rug - and introduce complementary patterns in softer shades picked out from the bedspread on cushions, blinds and curtains. Here, a grey and white stripe makes a stylish contrasting reverse to the bedspread's multi-coloured floral print. Complete this vintage country look with pale painted furniture and colourful botanical and nature-inspired prints on the walls.

For stockists, see page 30







Pick classic and traditional designs that won't date over the years and mix in new, sympathetic patterns to refresh the effect

ABOVE RIGHT, **CLOCKWISE FROM** TOP LEFT

Linen bag with Little Stripe rose linen lining (seen here), £75, Cabbages & Roses. Paradise original on oyster linen, £197/m, Bennison Fabrics. Floral Clay linen in silver bells, £85/m, Liberty. Amelia Rose linen-mix (223978), £55/m; Chelsea floral linen-union (224319), £56/m: both Sanderson. Upwick

mist check linen, £68/m, Cloth & Clover. Buffalo plain wild linen (BUF7), £224/m, De Le Cuona. Poulton Stripe blue cotton (L-258), £96/m, Fermoie. Polperro teal linen-mix (BP10556), £95/m, GP&J Baker. Nimes celadon cotton (04855/14), £39/m, Manuel Canovas. Little Stripe slate linen, £48/m, Cabbages & Roses. Rug (as background), £155, French Connection



DECORATING



REVERSIBLE APRON

Cut out an apron shape from two fabrics, sewing a pocket on one. Make straps for the neck loop and waist ties. Right sides together, with straps pinned in place between the fabrics, sew top and side edges. Turn out and sew the bottom hem by hand. **Apron** in natural Little Stripe and Paris Rose linens, both £48/m, Cabbages & Roses. **Lantern** and **bottles**, from a selection, Labour and Wait. **Bottle holder**, £30, Garden Trading. **Twine** and **straws**, Pipii

LINED MARKET BASKET

Measure the inside of the basket and cut a length of fabric to create a lining. Sew up the side edges and, having folded in the top hem, hand-stitch in place around the rim of the basket.

Armchair, £858, Pimpernel & Partners; in Andaluz linen, £99/m, Carolina Irving at Redloh House Fabrics. Basket, £20, Labour and Wait; lining in Lapland linen, £55/m, Vanessa Arbuthnott. Throw, £220, The Conran Shop. Cushion, £45, Clarissa Hulse. Hat, ebay



DECORATIVE PLANT POT COVERS

Wrap strips of pretty fabrics, secured with twine or string, around damaged or plastic plant pots to disguise them.

Pot covers (from left) in Sorbus cotton-mix, £39/m, Ian Sanderson; Carew linen-mix, £95/m, GP&J Baker; Tickety Boo cotton, £24/m, Harlequin. Twine, £3, Pipii. Card and print, Willow & Stone. Table, £280, Garden Trading at Country Living General Store



FLORAL FAIRY LIGHTS

Gather a strip of cotton fabric around each bulb to create a petalled effect and tie in place with string at the flower's base. Fabrics, from a selection, Sanderson and Cloth & Clover. Battery-powered indoor LED lights, £3, Ikea. Zinc footed bowl, £13.95; antique mirror, £350: both Pale & Interesting. Enamel churn, £22, Pimpernel & Partners. Hemnes chest of drawers, £115, Ikea





NATURE STUDY

Panelling and woodwork in Cotton interior eggshell, £47/2.5 litres, Country Living Paint Collection from Marston & Langinger at Country Living General Store. Blind in Leaf green linen-cotton union, £142/m, Molly Mahon; backed with Tickety Boo striped cotton (130800), £24/m, Harlequin. Curtains in Lysander green embroidered cotton (J661F-03), £66/m, Jane Churchill. Curtain pole, similar from a selection, Ikea. Industrial pendant light, similar from a selection, Skinflint. Similar vintage bench (far side of table), £295, Design Vintage. Cushions (on bench, from left) in Tickety Boo striped cotton (130800), £24/m, Harlequin; Sorbus willow cotton-linen mix, £39/m, lan Sanderson; Aylsham cotton (L-238), £96/m, Fermoie. Vintage wrought-iron garden chairs, from £78 each, Pimpernel & Partners. Cushions in Medina Palm linen, £85/m, Rapture & Wright; Upwick olive linen (on chair with heart-shaped back), £68/m, Cloth & Clover. Table, similar from a selection, Loaf. Cloth in Carew teal linen-mix (BP10559), £95/m, GP&J Baker. On table, from left Large wooden round trav. £150. The Conran Shop. Glass jar, from £18, Rockett St George. Watering can, £40, Labour and Wait. Terracotta plant pot, £11, Rowen & Wren. Vintage green glass jars, from £6 each; brown seed packet, from a selection:

selection, Ikea. Twine, £3, Pipii. Zinc jug, £6.50, Cox & Cox. Wooden spoons, from £36, The Conran Shop. Glass, £5, Habitat. Vintage watering can (on floor), £30; green stool (just seen, far right), £39: both Pimpernel & Partners. Hurst runner, £75, Habitat. Similar white stool, £225, The White Company. Vintage wine crate, similar from Baileys. Suffolk print, £35; card, £3.75: both Willow & Stone. Hanging **planter**, £5, Ikea. Similar trug, £58; twine, £11: both Hen & Hammock. In trug Tickety Boo striped cotton (130800), £24/m, Harlequin. Zinc pot, £7.50 (for three), Cox & Cox. Potting table, £280, Garden Trading at Country Living General Store. Tablecloth in Aylsham cotton (L-238), £96/m, Fermoie. Terracotta plant pot, £11, Rowen & Wren



PLAY WITH PATTERN

Large plain charcoal Gower sofa, £1,198, Country Living Collection exclusively available at DFS. Cushions in Ormond Ardee cotton-mix (F6690-03), £69/m; Anopura Vanini cotton-mix (MLF2246-04), £65/m, Lorca: both at Osborne & Little. Chevron throw (just seen, far left), £220, The Conran Shop. Tray (on sofa), £10. Pimpernel & Partners. Large tray coffee table, £245, French Connection. Tablecloth in natural Little Stripe slate linen, £48/m, Cabbages & Roses. Book, £8, Much Ado Books. Bialetti stove-top espresso maker, £28, John Lewis. Enamel tray, £16.50, Design Vintage.

Napkins in natural Little Stripe slate linen and Paris Rose black linen, both £48/m, Cabbages & Roses, and Cove Check charcoal linen (F0344/01), £27/m, Clarke & Clarke. Glass sugar jar, £7.99 (for 12), Lakeland. Card, £3.50, Liberty. Teacups and saucers, £45 (cup and saucer), Rachel Dormor Ceramics. Jug, £7.99, After Noah. Glass jar, from £18, Rockett St George



Reclaimed wood cladding similar from reclamation or timber yards. Antlers, similar from a selection, Pale & Interesting. Large plain charcoal Gower sofa, £1,198, Country Living Collection exclusively available at DFS. Chevron silver throw, £220, The Conran Shop. Tray, £10, Pimpernel & Partners. **Scissors**, £17.50, Hen & Hammock. Twine, £3, Pipii. Tape measure, £5.40, Merchant & Mills. Cushions (from left) in

Elephant Stripe slate linen,

£48/m, Cabbages & Roses;

Ormond Ardee cotton-mix

CONTRASTING TONES

(F6690-03), £69/m; Anopura Vanini cotton-mix (MLF2246-04), £65/m, Lorca: both at Osborne & Little; Helena charcoal linen (F0425/01), £19/m, Clarke & Clarke. Rug, £120, Rockett St George, Large tray coffee table. £245, French Connection. On table, from left Book, from a selection, Much Ado Books. Button card (on book), from £6, Cloth House. Tablecloth in natural Little Stripe slate linen, £48/m, Cabbages & Roses. Bialetti espresso maker, £28, John Lewis. White enamel tray,

£16.50, Design Vintage, Napkins in natural Little Stripe slate linen and Paris Rose black linen, both £48/m, Cabbages & Roses, and Cove Check charcoal linen (F0344/01), £27/m, Clarke & Clarke. Teacups and saucers, £45 (cup and saucer), Rachel Dormor Ceramics. Jug, £7.99, After Noah. Glass jar, from £18, Rockett St George. Enamel coffee pot, £17, Pimpernel & Partners. Card, £3.50, Liberty. Zinc bowl, similar from Pale & Interesting. Vintage ladder, £65, Pimpernel & Partners. Apron, £59, Toast. Vintage chair, £240 (pair), Pale & Interesting. **Cushion** in Cove Check charcoal linen (F0344/01), £27/m, Clarke & Clarke. Moth plates, £12 (small); £14 (large): both Rockett St George. Painted cabinet, similar from The French House. Cloth in Paris Rose black linen, £48/m, Cabbages & Roses. On cabinet, from left Fluted zinc pot, £7.50 (for three), Cox & Cox. Wirework pot, similar from Grand Illusions. Vintage apothecary bottles, from £10, Home Barn. Vintage tea box, £9.95, After Noah. Jam pot, £8.50; enamel candle holder, £12: both Labour and Wait. Vintage galvanised iug, £27, Pimpernel & Partners. Wall hanging in (clockwise from top left) Mimi Check onyx cotton (130789), £28/m, Harlequin; natural Little Stripe slate linen, £48/m, Cabbages & Roses; Helena charcoal linen (F0425/01), £19/m; Cove Check charcoal linen (FO344/O1), £27/m: both Clarke & Clarke; Jacobean at Night charcoal on natural linen, £72/m, Celia Birtwell; Paris Rose black linen, £48/m, Cabbages & Roses. Cuppa lamp, £125, Loaf. Lampshade in Little Stripe slate linen, £48/m, Cabbages & Roses. Vintage zinc planters, £38 each, Design Vintage. Footstool, £110, Rockett St George. On windowsill Wirework fruit basket, £25; faux rosemary in pot, £65: both Cox & Cox. Blind in Jacobean at Night charcoal on natural linen, as before. All other details, as before 🤝

all Pimpernel & Partners. Green

print seed packet, from a

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MIX & MATCH Woodwork and doors in Cotton

interior eggshell, £47/2.5 litres, Country Living Paint Collection by Marston & Langinger at Country Living General Store. Reclaimed wood cladding, similar from reclamation or timber yards. Percy armchair (left), £858 each, Pimpernel & Partners; covered in Meadow's Edge stone/fennel linen, £54/m, St Jude's. Portman tweed blazer, £159, Joules. Cushion in Milson ticking linen, £72/m, Celia Birtwell. Book, £8, Much Ado Books. Basket (behind chair), £20, Labour and Wait; lined in Lapland linen, £55/m, Vanessa Arbuthnott. Vintage black suitcase, flea-market find. Percy armchair (right), as before; covered in Andaluz pebble linen, £99/m, Carolina Irving at Redloh House Fabrics. Dill linen cushion, £45, Clarissa Hulse. Hewn stool (as table), £160, Sebastian Cox. Tablecloth in Suvi hay linen (7616/04), £55/m, Romo. Wooden side plate, £12, Nkuku. Copper mug, £18, Rowen & Wren. Jar, similar from Bonne Maman. Rug, similar from The Conran Shop. Vintage ladder, similar from The Mint List. On ladder Lorena coffee linen (ED85083), £173/m, Threads at GP&J Baker. Vintage seed print. £65, Home Barn. Vintage crate, £14, Hen & Hammock. Sorbus saffron cotton-linen-mix fabric, £39/m, Ian Sanderson. Hat, ebay find. Lampshade, £79, Rockett St George. Throw (over door) in Pippin linen-mix in lemon, £50.50/m, Voyage Decoration. Curtain (in door

window) in Wild & Free linen in dormouse, £48/m, Vanessa Arbuthnott. Tote bag in Peopleton mustard linen, £68/m, Cloth & Clover, and Harris tweed in sky, £68/m, Vanessa Arbuthnott. School slate (on wall), £9.50, Labour and Wait; in Yellowcake estate eggshell, £21/750ml, Farrow & Ball. Vintage workbench, £660, Quirky Interiors. Tall jug, £28.50, After Noah. Lesley McShea yellow vase, £68, The Conran Shop. Painting, from £300, Rose Arbuthnott. Birch plywood birds, £5 each, Naomi Greaves. Copper basket, £45 (set of two), Habitat. Pots, from a selection, Rowen & Wren. Twine, £6.50, Labour and Wait. Scissors, similar from ebay. Radio, from £160, Roberts Radio. Lamp, £115, French Connection. Timbergram butterfly wooden postcard, £5, The Conran Shop. Folded linen, £18/m, Cloth House. Lapland striped linen, £55/m, Vanessa Arbuthnott, Iron basket, £49. Rockett St George. Vintage toy car, similar from Baileys



STYLISH SIMPLICITY

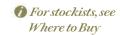
Walls in Cotton chalky interior eggshell, £47/2.5 litres, Country Living Paint Collection from Marston & Langinger at Country Living General Store. Vintage shutters (as headboard), flea-market find. Bed linen, from a selection, John Lewis. Cushions (on pillows, from left) in Floral Clay linen in silver bells, £85/m, Liberty; Buffalo wild linen (BUF7), £224/m, De Le Cuona. Large bolster in Paradise linen, £197/m. Bennison Fabrics: backed in Nimes celadon cotton (04855/14), £39/m, Manuel Canovas. Small cushion in Upwick mist linen, £68/m, Cloth & Clover. Bedspread in Amelia Rose linen-mix (223977), £55/m, Sanderson; backed in Little Stripe slate linen, £48/m; pink cardigan, £129; dress (on bed), £259; plimsolls, £35; linen bag with pink striped lining, £75: all Cabbages & Roses. Floral bag in Chelsea linen-union (224319), £56/m, Sanderson. Basket, similar from Laura Ashley. Rug, £155, French Connection. Curtain in Poulton Stripe cotton (L-258), £96/m, Fermoie. Similar stool, £225, The White Company. **Blind** in Polperro teal linen-mix (BP10556), £95/m, GP&J Baker; trim in Upwick mist linen, £68/m. Cloth & Clover. Cabinet. flea-market find. Vintage lamp, similar from After Noah. Glass, £1.40, Ikea. Potted plant, £18, Liberty. Trivet, similar from Nkuku. Poster, £3; postcards, 90p each: all Willow & Stone. Butterfly print, £12, Rockett St George. Silver light, £56.95,

Pale & Interesting



ALL IS CALM

Hemnes chest of drawers, £115, Ikea. Cushion (on chest) in Upwick mist linen, £68/m, Cloth & Clover. Bespoke butterfly box frame, £400, Naomi Greaves. Postcards, 90p each, Willow & Stone. Books, from £8, Much Ado Books. Child's Liberty-print cotton dress, £48, Coco & Wolf at Country Living General Store. All other details, as before





directory

B BENNISON FABRICS

(020 7730 8076;

bennisonfabrics.com)

Small company producing exquisite hand-printed linens. Mainly based on elegant historic designs. with some updated colours and scales. Great for floral and figurative patterns.

C CABBAGES & ROSES

(020 7352 7333;

cabbagesandroses.com)

Romantic faded florals, stripes and toiles printed on fine linens - in raspberry and rosy hues as well as cooler grey, black and white. **CELIA BIRTWELL**

(020 7221 0877; celiabirtwell.com)

Whimsical and individual, Celia's prints on highquality linens and cottons have a unique artistic style.

CLARKE & CLARKE

(01706 242010:

clarke-clarke.co.uk)

Wide range of reasonably priced textiles, from velvets and upholstery weaves to prints, sheers and plains.

CLOTH & CLOVER

(020 7013 0847;

clothandclover.com)

Stylish high-quality printed linens with a vintage feel, all produced in the UK. Mostly small-scale designs in an array of distinctive colours.

COLEFAX AND FOWLER

(020 7244 7427;

colefax.com)

Elegant re-workings of period textiles including embroideries, weaves, prints, sheers, damasks and checks.

FERMOIE

(01672 513723;

fermoie.com)

Quality printed cottons in understated designs with an antiqued appearance. Fine stripes, plains and

small-scale motifs suitable for upholstery and curtaining, all produced in the UK.

G GP&J BAKER

(020 7351 7760; gpandjbaker.com)

Historic firm with archive of quality fabrics, some of which date back to the Victorian era. Wide range of prints and weaves, as well as contemporary designs and a hand-block-printed collection of indigo-hued Indian-influenced patterns.

(II) HARLEQUIN

(0845 123 6815;

harlequin.uk.com)

Contemporary and traditional fabrics in every colour, including prints, weaves and voiles - often in striking shades - and collections that work in colour-families. Also collections by well-known designers including Clarissa Hulse and Orla Kiely.

I IAN MANKIN

(020 7722 0997;

ianmankin.co.uk)

Quality utility classics stripes, tickings, checks - as well as plains and denims. IAN SANDERSON

(01635 33188;

iansanderson.co.uk)

Large collection of quality linens, weaves, plaids and wools, plus printed cottons with a vintage feel in small-scale geometric and sprigged designs.

JANE CHURCHILL

(020 7244 7427; janechurchill.com)

Wide selection of fabrics in a variety of shades and styles, including colourful, ethnic designs, plains, prints, stripes and children's ranges. **JOHN LEWIS**

(0345 604 9049;

johnlewis.com)

Great choice of designer fabric collections, own-brand ranges and fabric remnants for small craft projects.

LAURA ASHLEY

(0333 200 8009:

lauraashley.com)

Pretty country-house fabrics including florals, decorative prints, plains, velvets, checks and stripes in gentler colourings, plus coordinating wallpapers.

LIBERTY

(020 7734 1234:

liberty.co.uk)

Distinctive prints on linenunion and velvet. Signature flowers and often rich. painterly, artistic designs. LINWOOD

(01425 461176;

linwoodfabric.com)

Stylish plaids, plains, vintage-style motifs, printed velvets and block-printinspired designs.

MOLLY MAHON

(01342 825241;

mollymahon.com and via tissusdhelene.co.uk)

In her garden workshop

in Sussex, Molly creates charming hand-blocked linens in uplifting colours and simple motifs.

MORRIS & CO

(0844 543 9500;

william-morris.co.uk)

Founded in the 1860s by William Morris, this company produces quality, faithfully reproduced classics and sensitive new interpretations. Large-scale pictorial/tapestry designs, velvets, weaves, prints and embroideries. **MULBERRY HOME**

(020 7351 7760;

gpandjbaker.com)

Quality wools, linens and cottons in classic English designs including plaids, florals, paisleys, velvets and embroideries in richer styles and colours.

O OSBORNE & LITTLE

(020 8812 3123; osborneandlittle.com)

Classic collections, including smaller-scale geometrics, weaves and upholsteryweight fabrics, botanicals,

stripes, prints, sheers and wools, often with exotic or bohemian influences.

PRESTIGIOUS TEXTILES

(01274 688448;

prestigious.co.uk)

Wide range of designs from graphic painterly prints to classic intricate embroideries at reasonable prices.

R RAPTURE & WRIGHT

(01608 652442;

raptureandwright.co.uk)

Small, stylish collection of distinctive hand-printed designs (to order) with an appealing organic quality. ROMO

(01623 756699; romo.com)

Huge range of upholstery and curtain-weight textiles in a wide array of designs - plains, weaves, prints, sheers and linens.

S SANDERSON

(0844 543 9500;

sanderson-uk.com)

Large selection of textiles, many influenced by the company's extensive archive. Prints, weaves, geometrics, plains, patterns, figurative designs and classic florals. ST JUDE'S

(01603 662951;

stjudesfabrics.co.uk)

Charming eye-catching, hand-drawn and unusually coloured prints - often with vintage influences - on quality linen, by a collective of artists and illustrators.

VANESSA ARBUTHNOTT

(01285 831437;

vanessaarbuthnott.co.uk)

Appealing printed organic cottons and linens featuring country-inspired designs in muted shades. Also a range of Scottish wools, updated toiles, weaves, stripes and checks that coordinate well.

VOYAGE DECORATION (0141 641 1700;

voyagedecoration.com)

Painterly printed linens in a washy hand-rendered style, as well as weaves and bright embroideries. The

Country Collection features plants and animals.

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sa month in the WHAT TO SEE September >



EARTHY PLEASURES

he sight of fields and hillsides lined with furrows of freshly turned earth is a clear sign ∕that autumn is on its way. Ploughing has taken place at this time of year in Britain for most of recorded history, with the first written reference dating back to 1100AD. Originally pushed by hand, the plough, also historically known by the Old English term 'sulh', the Old Norse 'aror' or the Gothic 'hoha', was later pulled predominantly by oxen until the 18th century. However, horses 'for the dray, the plough or the chariot' were on sale in Smithfield Market in London as early as 1145. Since then, the image of majestic Shire horses towing a plough along a perfectly aligned trough has become an intrinsic part of our rural history. It is a sight that's loved to this day, as demonstrated by the popularity of the matches that take place countrywide. Visit ploughmen.co.uk to find out more about this year's competitions.



CALVING IS IN FULL SWING NOW. with more than 120 cows due to give birth over the next couple of months and the calf house starting to fill up as we pair the older cows with youngsters to foster. Meanwhile, some of the lambs

born in April are ready for eating. As with all livestock, it's a short life, but we aim to make



is taking place on her mixed organic holding in Wiltshire

it a good one. Still, it weighs heavy, selecting animals for slaughter. All summer we've been making silage and hay, bringing in the straw, cleaning out the buildings, and, as the days shorten, ensuring the pig fields can cope with whatever winter brings. It's a lovely time of year, and one we make the most of as the season



to batten down the hatches draws near. For more about Helen's farm, see helenbrownings organic.co.uk.



TRADITIONAL WILD-FLOWER

meadows are a vitally important habitat for bees and butterflies. However, changes in agricultural practices have meant a 98 per cent decline in their number in the past 50 years. Fortunately, you can help - September is the best time of year to plant your own wildflower patch. Clear all vegetation from an

IN NATURE

Naturalist Simon King offers tips about the wild visitors you will see in your garden

area of your garden, dig to a minimum of 10cm and sprinkle the seeds over the ground. A good cross-section of flowers will ensure there is nectar, pollen and food for a huge variety of butterflies, bumblebees and other pollinating insects throughout the spring and summer, as well as creating one of the most beautiful (and low-maintenance)



parts of your plot for years to come. To learn about Simon's work, see simonking wildlife.com.

SEPTEMBER 2015 **2** 35 countryliving.co.uk

ENJOY A SLOW SUNDAY

Why not set aside one day a week to savour the simple pleasures in life?



CREATE HERBAL CURES

cour the hedgerows on late-summer days for ingredients to make natural remedies for the colder months ahead. Rosehips, sloes and elderberries can be used in vitamin C-rich syrup, traditionally taken to ward off coughs and colds. Blitz rosehips in a food processor, or mash berries, before adding to boiling water. Simmer, then strain through a jelly bag. Rosehips contain tiny hairs that irritate the throat, so strain them two to three times. Return the liquid to the pan, add sugar and reduce. Store in sterilised jars – once opened, they'll keep for a week in the fridge. Read: Foraging: The Essential Guide to Free Wild Food by John Lewis-Stempel (Little Brown, £8.99) is a handy paperback for beginners, while The Little Book of Home Remedies: Aches and Ailments is packed with recipes.



APPRECIATE A GOOD DRYING DAY

Make the most of the warm weather by hanging the washing out on the line. Linen smells fresher when dried outside and few things are as satisfying as seeing clean sheets flapping in the breeze.



MAKE YOUR OWN YOGURT

Mix a dollop of live yogurt with a pint of milk that's been heated to 80 degrees, then cooled. You can buy yogurt makers (try Lakeland) that gently heat the mixture, but a flask in the airing cupboard overnight works just as well.



A SIMPLE MAKE... PUNCHED TIN LANTERNS

Light up warm summer evenings with these upcycled outdoor lamps

- Remove the label from a tin can and wash well. Fill with water and freeze overnight. This will allowyou to punch in a pattern without creating dents.
- Choose your design either draw this on a piece of paper and attach it to the tin or reproduce it freehand. Doing this before freezing will mean the ice won't be melting as you draw.
- 3 Lay the tin on a towel and, using a nail and hammer, carefully punch in your design three to four taps should do the trick for each hole. Add two close to the rim for the handle.
- 4 Rinse the tin under a hot tap until the ice has melted and allow it to dry.
- 5 For a unique touch, cover with a paint suitable for metal surfaces*.
- 6 Using pliable wire (available from Hobbycraft), create a handle by securing each end through the two holes at the top of the tin.
- Drop in a lit tealight and hang.

COURSES... IN CIDER MAKING

- Cider making Assington Mill, Assington, Suffolk Learn how to make one of Britain's oldest and best-loved beverages on this one-day course, which covers pressing, blending and bottling. 6 September; £95 (01787 229955; assingtonmill.com).
- 2 Introduction to artisan cider making The School of Artisan Food, Welbeck, Nottinghamshire Ingredients are provided on arrival but you are also welcome to bring your own apples if you wish. 7 September; £145 (01909 532171; school of artisan food.org).
- Oractical cider making Upper Neatham Mill Farm, Holybourne, Alton, Hampshire Enjoy a weekend of hands-on cider making at a B&B retreat during which you can also pick your apples.
 2-5 October; £185 per person based on two people sharing (01420 542908; upperneatham.co.uk).

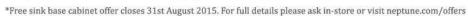
angrish. Punched tin Lanterns created by **Clementene Coates** (Clementenecoates, Cour). Photograph by Hearst Studios uk Inng aant collection epom marston 8, Langingep, Amala R, E from Collator (Mang Genepa). Stope (Shapcollator) (Mang Colla)



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MEET A COUNTRY



Denise Foster's fascination with bats began when she attended a talk in Hertfordshire about the nocturnal flying mammal. The speaker had brought an example of the pipistrelle species, common to British farmland and woodland, and Denise was surprised and captivated by how fragile and small it was, though it has a 20-year life expectancy in the wild. Fifteen years later, she moved to Herefordshire, joined a wildlife group and began forging a full-time career in bat conservation. Since then, Denise has worked with professional ecologists, gained valuable experience in bat detection, sound analysis, hibernation surveys and radio tracking, and taken part in research trips to Trinidad and Slovakia. Hoping to inspire others to get involved in volunteer-led projects in the UK and overseas, she now trains novice bat workers, leads field events and gives talks about these complex creatures. To find out more about her work, visit ham, btck, co.uk.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? **Eglwys**

The Welsh for 'church', derived from the Latin 'ecclesia'. Cwm-yr-Eglwys, meaning 'valley of the church', is a hamlet in Pembrokeshire.*



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Discover hidden works of art, catch a glimpse of secret archives and walk behind the scenes of some of the country's most iconic properties with Heritage Open Days 2015. From 10-13 September, with support from the National Trust, houses and gardens will be revealing elements from their past, usually inaccessible to the public. Explore the remains of Greyfriars friary in Oxford, explore the secret garden at Judge's Lodgings museum in Lancaster, go backstage at the Halifax Playhouse or take a tour of Wilton Windmill in Wiltshire (above). Loyd Grossman, patron of Heritage Open Days, says, "New funding sources and a higher profile mean we are in a stronger position than ever to celebrate our wonderfully diverse local heritage and encourage communities to engage with the hidden histories on their doorstep." To find your local open day, visit heritageopendays.org.uk.



FROM YOUR ARMCHAIR



Discover how to grow - and cook - all the ingredients you need for 25 delicious dishes using a single utensil with **One-Pot Gourmet** Gardener by Cinead McTernan (Frances Lincoln, £16.99).**





For remoteness Blaenau Ffestiniog to Porthmadog Originally a horse-drawn line

for slate transportation, this route delights tourists with scenes of Snowdonia (festrail.co.uk).



For sea views Exeter to

Penzance Brunel's 'atmospheric railway' hugs the coastline and Bodmin Moor before finishing with a view of St Michael's Mount (firstgreatwestern.co.uk).



For nostalgia Whitby to

Pickering Take the steam railway over the North Yorkshire Moors and through woodland, finishing with a cream tea at Pickering station (nymr.co.uk).



For history Inverness to Wick

Wind through some of Britain's most remote and northerly landscapes, crossing into the Highlands and Wick's Viking territory (scotrail.co.uk).



For heights Settle to Carlisle

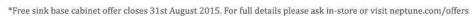
Pass over the Ribblehead Viaduct and through allegedly haunted Blea Moor tunnel before dropping down into stunning Eden Valley (settle-carlislerailway.co.uk).



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CLOCKWISE, FROM LEFT Stroll along the River Great Ouse; have afternoon tea at Peacocks: lose yourself in Waterside Antiques; visit Oliver Cromwell's House





A NIGHT AND A DAY IN... ELY

Stay... At Peacocks Tearoom and Fine B&B, based in a Georgian property on this Cambridgeshire cathedral city's waterside. The elegant and spacious Brewery House Suite is decorated in soft greens, greys and yellows, has sash windows with river views, and features antique furniture, chandeliers, old prints and oil paintings that owner Rachel Peacock gleaned during her career as a dealer. Start the day with a glass of granola, yogurt and berries followed by crumpets, smoked salmon and cream cheese. Double B&B from £125 (peacocks tearoom.co.uk).

GET IN TOUCH CEBOOK.COM/ OUNTRYLIVING ITTER.COM/ OUNTRYLIVINGUK **DUNTRY.LIVING**

Eat...

Cakes in flavours such as apple and cinnamon and chocolate zucchini at Peacocks Tearoom beneath the B&B, where you can take one of its 70 different brews in the garden when fine. For satisfying British fare, such as roast loin of Blythburgh pork with a fresh herb stuffing, dine at The Old Fire Engine House on St Mary's Street, a restaurant and gallery displaying the work of East Anglian artists. Sample modern dishes including honey- and cider-glazed duck breast with potato fondant, apple purée and charred kale in the relaxed setting of The Royal Standard pub on Fore Hill.

Browse...

The 10,000 square feet of collectables at Waterside Antiques, next door to Peacocks. Also on Waterside is Babylon Gallery, which showcases contemporary art and craft. Cutlacks, a vast home and garden emporium on Fore Hill, sells picnicware by Anorak, Joules bedlinen and Farrow & Ball paint, as well as DIY essentials. Mull over potential purchases on the windowseats of Topping & Company Booksellers. Finally, explore Oliver Cromwell's House on St Mary's Street, where a 17th-century interior has been recreated.

Don't miss The 42nd Haddenham Steam Rally, held just outside Ely on 12-13 September with 600 exhibits, including vintage cars, tractors and steam engines (haddenhamsteamrally.co.uk)

FURTHER **AFIELD**



Climb aboard Liberty Belle (07927 390380; search 'Liberty Belle' at visitely.eastcambs. gov.uk) at Ship Lane to take a 30-minute cruise along the River Great Ouse (until the end of October). Wildlife enthusiasts are well catered for in the area; north of Ely are the footpaths, hides and spectacular views of avian paradise Welney Wetland Centre (wwt.org.uk), while a few miles south of the city, at Wicken Fen National Nature Reserve (nationaltrust.org.uk/ wicken-fen), you can hire bicycles, take boat trips led by a warden and even camp overnight (listen for the boom of the bittern this autumn).



LOCAL LANDMARK **Ely Cathedral** is known as the 'Ship of the Fens, after it once seemed to float above the mist and marshes •

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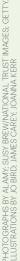


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DREAM HOME...
HAPPISBURGH MANOR,
NORFOLK
£790,000

Each month, we choose our favourite country property currently on the market

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appisburgh Manor is an Arts and Crafts-style house set in 12 acres of the north Norfolk coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, five miles from the market town of Stalham. Arranged in a butterfly-wing design to make the most of the sunlight and rural views, this Grade II-listed home was built at the turn of the 20th century using local pebble flint.

Through a gabled porch at the centre of the property is a drawing room with oak panelling, flagstone flooring and windowseats to either side of the original chimneybreast. The south wing features a stone-floored dining room and sitting room, also with oak wall panelling and leaded glass windows that continue throughout. There are two further reception rooms and a kitchen, which features cream units, a butler's sink and ceramic wall tiling. The north wing's rooms centre around an inner courtyard with a well and include a ground-floor bedroom and bathroom. The first floor, accessible via stone stairs, has three bedrooms with bathrooms, plus four additional bedrooms and two bathrooms, with a sauna on the second floor.

Outside, a heated swimming pool, pavilion, stable block, rose garden, summerhouse and orchard are arranged in gardens divided into rooms and bordered by a low, oval-shaped flint wall. There is private footpath access to the clifftops and down to the sandy beaches below.

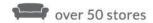
MULTI STYLES MULTI FABRICS MULTI CHOICE



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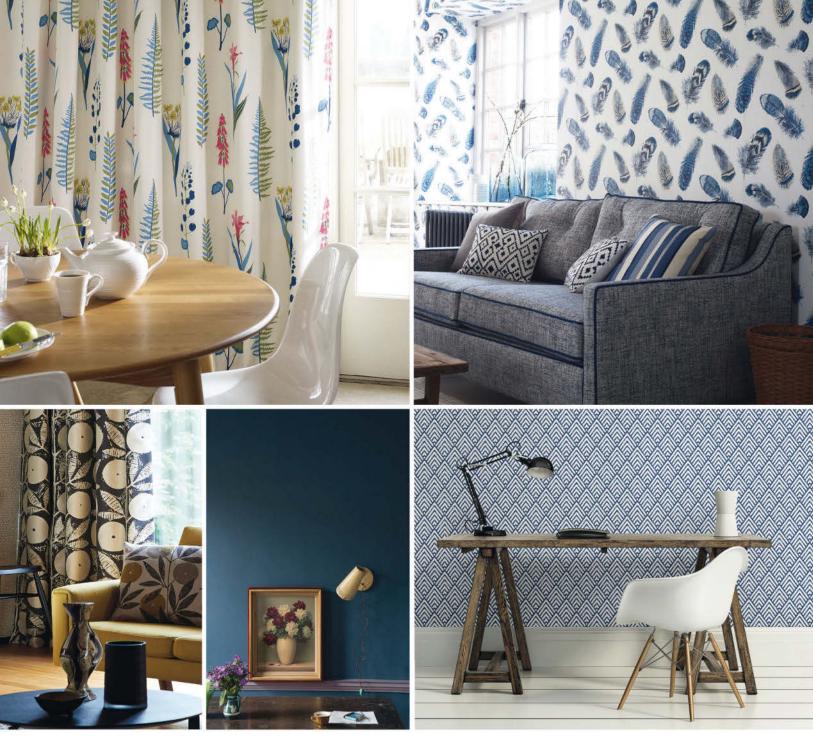
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TABLE TALENT SOLUTION OF THE STATE OF THE ST

In our series celebrating home-grown skills, we meet women making the most of their hobby, whether they're earning from their kitchen table or launching a fully fledged business. Plus, discover different ways to follow in their footsteps

WORDS BY CAROLINE ATKINS PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALUN CALLENDER

THIS MONTH: THE ARTIST











late, cream rose, tinged with pink, scrambles over the hedge just outside Alison Porter's window. Inside her Somerset workshop, newly converted from a dilapidated hay store, white-painted walls are hung with lengths of the traditionally printed wallpaper that she sells under her 'Cowparsley at home' label. Moodboards pinned with swatches, paint charts and magazine cuttings are propped on a bench. At the trestle table, Alison is studying berries and flowers, picking her colours from an Emma Bridgewater mug full of watercolour crayons, while a sheaf of sketches next to her shows images of rabbits, ducks and teddy bears in different poses.

Alison inherited her passion for drawing from her father, an RAF officer ("but he could have been an illustrator," she says), and has always found refuge in creating visual stories to get her through difficult times. But it wasn't something she thought of turning into a career: instead she initially wanted to be a farmer (she went to agricultural college and still knows how to reverse a tractor and trailer), worked for many years as a nanny and then did a floristry course ("which taught me everything about colour and composition"). It wasn't until two years ago, when she moved to the village of

Higher Wambrook, just outside Chard, that she decided to combine her hobby with her love of creating a home and produce wallpapers based on her drawings.

"My daughter Florence had grown up and moved away, so I needed to find something new to nurture," she says, "and I think I was hankering to root myself somewhere, because my childhood was quite nomadic: my father's work meant we were always moving and didn't really settle properly in England until I was about 11." As a result, she always envied friends with big families and rambling farmhouses – the sense of a place growing organically and becoming loved.

That was what she wanted to capture in her nostalgic wallpapers, with designs inspired by childhood memories – a friend's rocking horse, a blue-and-white stripe that reminded her of seaside holidays, and an old-fashioned English rose based on a wallpaper she remembered from her aunt's house in Cornwall. Wallpapers

THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE Inspired by country childhood memories and faded English florals, Alison turns her sketches into charming wallpaper and fabric designs







"I gave the printers fabric scraps and flowers to colour-match"

encapsulate the past, she points out: "Peel them back and you discover hidden layers that people have loved."

She had already mapped out a collection of ideas, and – knowing she would prefer her papers to be produced in Britain – had found the printer she wanted to use, when a *Country Living* event at the Hay Festival last May provided the final incentive. Inspired by hearing vintage homeware designer Julie Dodsworth and Fiona Davies of Women in Rural Enterprise talk about turning a hobby into a business, Alison took her sketches to the Anstey Wallpaper Company, which has been printing papers for more than 100 years (for designers including Colefax and Fowler and Osborne & Little). By September she was watching the first rolls of her 'Dummer Rose' paper coming off the press at its Leicestershire printworks.

Everyone at Anstey was enthusiastic about her designs from the start, she remembers, which was a huge confidence boost: "And my moodboards helped them understand the look I was after. I gave them fabric scraps and flowers to colour-match – and even a picture of a lovely old Massey Ferguson tractor, which was the perfect grey for my rabbits and rocking horse." Anstey had designers, colour mixers and printers who could take her raw \circlearrowleft

SMALL-BUSINESS START-UP



THE ARTIST Words by Fiona Davies from WiRE

With the British public favouring unique products created by UK designers and manufacturers, it's the perfect time to turn your prints into profit.

CREATE A PRODUCT RANGE

- Start with some strategic and unemotional research into the market. As an artist, you know what you love but don't assume everyone else has the same taste; a straw poll on Twitter or Facebook or a questionnaire at the school gate will give you useful information.
- Take time to find a manufacturer you like and trust. Ask questions on price, delivery speed, minimum quantities; answers and tone will probably rule a few out. Commission samples from your shortlist.

LEARN TO SELL

- Make it easy for people to buy at every price point by having a range of products featuring complementary styles.
- If you're selling through retail outlets, treat them like a customer; help them display your work and provide point-of-sale information about you.
- Trade-show buyers can be tough, so learn to stick to your guns; you don't have to agree to every request. You're not offering a bespoke service, so unless they are ordering huge quantities, your stock is your stock.
- Invest in an e-commerce website with beautiful images of your products in-situ.

DRAW IN CUSTOMERS

- Identify the distinction between your product and a mass-produced version; ethically sourced, fair-wage production, organic fabric are all good buzzwords.
- Keep in touch with potential customers regularly in a blog or e-newsletter, which covers trends and advice on how to feature your homeware for maximum impact.

SOURCEBOOK

- The Royal College of Art professional development service has online resources (fuel.rca.ac.uk).
- The British Library Business & IP Centre has resources and patent information (bl.uk/bipc).
- Make it British is a directory and advocate for UK manufacturers and suppliers (makeitbritish.co.uk).
- The Design Trust is an online business school for designers and makers (thedesigntrust.co.uk).

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sketches and turn them into a pattern that would be checked and adjusted by her at each stage of the process. "Once we'd agreed on the rose shape, they sent roughs in different sizes for me to decide on the scale, then fitted that mathematically into the paper width, and got the colours how I wanted them," she explains.

Each colour needed a different roller, at a cost of more than £500 each, but Alison and her husband Ian funded the project out of savings, and ordered the minimum quantity (150 rolls) of each design to keep the expense down. Most of her customers buy just two or three rolls at a time, but she's also found a company that can turn her papers into beautiful ribbon-tied box files, getting six out of a single roll, so she will keep a stock of those, too.

She wants to let Cowparsley grow at its own pace, in order to pay back the start-up costs, while also keeping the concept undiluted and enjoying the sense of achievement she feels in bringing something new to life. She has now turned her bees into a fabric, too - along with a scaled-down version of the rose (called 'Audrey', after her mother), printed on a linen-cotton mix in softer colours: "How lucky am I to be earning an income from what I love!" she says.

🕖 Cowparsley at home (01460 261963; cowparsleyat home.com). Wallpapers from £45/10.5 metres.



Inspired to set up your own business? **Turn overleaf** for our insider guide by our Talent Ambassador.

MORE WAYS TO TURN YOUR TALENT INTO TURNOVER



BECOME A BOTANICAL **ARTIST**

Ruth Kirkby worked as a bilingual secretary, a potter and a languages teacher in her home town of Presteigne in the Welsh Borders before breast cancer led her to reassess her career. Having always had a fascination with painting and the natural world, she enrolled in a botanical illustration course at Aberystwyth University. She then had her first solo exhibition in October 2012 in aid of the Hereford Haven and the Bracken Trust cancer charity and went on to win a Gold medal in last year's RHS Shades of Autumn show in London. "I'm proof that it's never too late to learn new skills," she says. Ruth Kirkby Botanicals (ruthkirkby1@gmail. com; ruthkirkbybotanicals.com).



RUN WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN

Setting up Art For Kids gave Donna Bompas the chance to combine her teaching experience with her love of painting and pottery. Originally from America, she trained as a teacher before moving with her English husband to Chislehurst in Kent, where she put her artistic skills to use in poster designs and Christmas craft projects for her children's school. Taking a diploma in botanical illustration at Chelsea Physic Garden made her realise that she wanted to be more active and involved, so she advertised a children's art class run from her home studio, and now has 120 pupils (plus a waiting list) from three-year-olds to those of secondary school age. "We do papier mâché, watercolours, ceramics, mask-making... I love watching their confidence grow." Art For Kids (020 8467 4745; artforkids.co.uk). 🤿



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Learn to earn with Julie Dodsworth

THIS MONTH: RUILES & REGULATIONS

JULIE

DODSWORTH,

our Talent Ambassador,

is an artisan British

designer who works from

her narrowboat on the

Grand Union Canal in

Northamptonshire. At the

age of 50, she decided to

turn her painting hobby

into a range of licensed

homeware. In this series of

columns, Julie shares her

experience and some of the

great advice she has been

given by others along the way.

AS A CREATIVE PERSON, PRACTICALITIES SUCH AS

completing paperwork have always struggled to hold my attention. Even though I'm now a business owner, it continues to be the case, possibly even more so, as there always seems to be more enjoyable, artistic jobs to be getting on with. However, there are certain 'must do' tasks, which, no matter how tedious, have to

be attended to before anything else.

I have taken heed of the advice given to me by a bank manager I knew in my start-up years - he stressed that finances and being organised are like the driving wheels of a locomotive - get these running well and your train will have a chance of staying on the rails. However, if, like me, the sight of an insurance document or a risk-assessment form makes you feel like running for the hills, fear not. The Government has catalogued most of the regulations that businesses must comply with at gov.uk/browse/business.

For further assistance, ask your friends and family. You may well discover someone who has been through the process before or who is a dab hand at paperwork and would exchange their help for some of your product or practical skills. Failing that, a good accountant will save you as much money as their fee, and the peace of mind their help brings is invaluable.

While establishing my business, one of the biggest areas of rules and regulations I encountered was health and safety. If you are employing others, fulfilling the necessary requirements in

your workplace is paramount. A good health and safety adviser will start you on a programme of checks, provide you with a policy and keep you abreast of new legislation. There are also some basic rules around payment and tax you need to follow; gov.uk/browse/ employing-people outlines these, or your accountant will be able

to talk them through with you.

I also found that having the correct insurance

is extremely important for protecting me, my product and my customers. Your local broker can help with this. To see what insurance you need for your business, go to abi.org.uk/Insuranceand-savings/Products/Business-insurance.

You may benefit from joining a group specific to your trade. For example, I am a member of ACID (Anti-Copying In Design - acid.uk.com). It not only provides a databank to which I can register my designs but also gives me access to a portfolio of selected experts and professionals.

Networking events are also a good opportunity

to meet other business people with whom you can compare notes. Your local BNI (Business Network

International) or Chamber of Trade will offer a great cross-section of businesses within its membership. For more than ten years, I attended these two groups in my home town of York. I met every type of trader, artisan and professional, and built brilliant relationships with remarkable people. But most importantly I discovered that running a business doesn't have to be a solitary occupation; you have plenty of great peers - you just have to go out and meet them.



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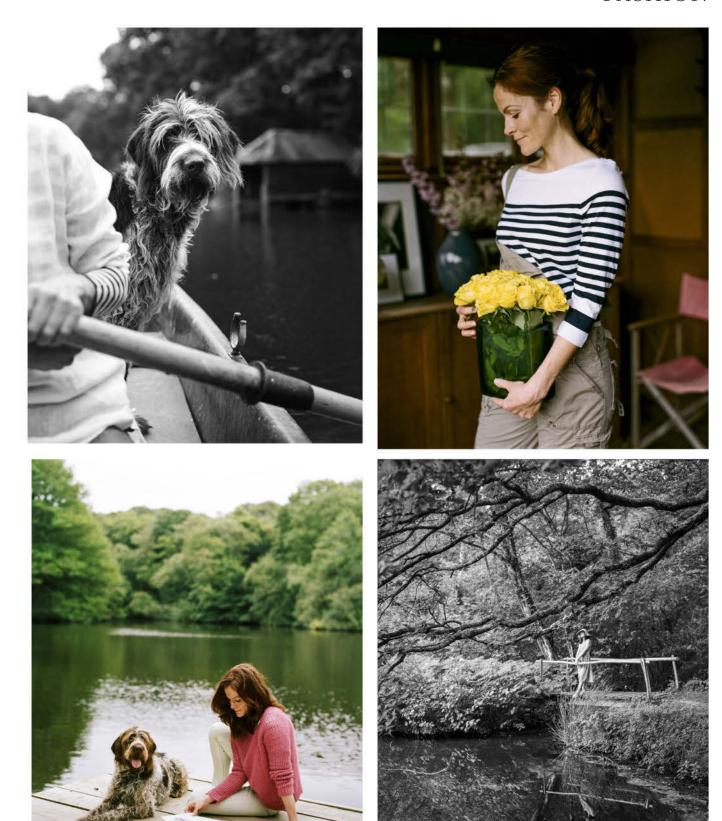
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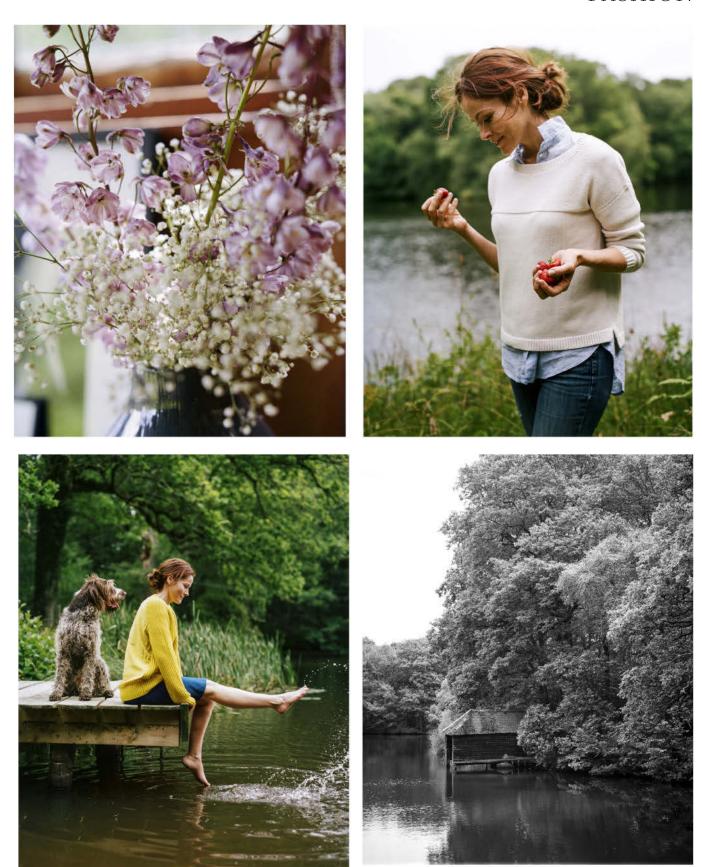




OPPOSITE Cotton striped Breton top, £18, Rokit. Linen oversized shirt, £34.99, Mistral. Denim shorts with turn-ups, £59, Cos. Yellow patterned canvas classic slip-on shoes, £39.99; sunglasses, £89.99: both Toms THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT All details, as before TOP RIGHT Striped top, £35, Hobbs; cotton dungarees, from a selection, Rokit ABOVE LEFT Wool jumper, £59, Hobbs. Waxed jeans, £175, True Religion. Watch, from £195, Links of London ABOVE RIGHT Silk smocked dress, £179, Hobbs. Hat, from a selection, Rokit

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OPPOSITE Silk smocked dress, £179, Hobbs. Hat, from a selection, Rokit THIS PAGE, TOP RIGHT Washed denim shirt, £19.99, H&M. Cotton-mix jumper, £49.99, Mistral. Jeans, £49.95, Gap ABOVE LEFT Textured-knit wool jumper, £55, Cos. Denim drawstring skirt, £29.90, Uniqlo

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FASHION









TOP LEFT Pale green top, £29, BDG at Urban Outfitters. Linen trousers, £39.95, Gap ABOVE RIGHT Flecked cotton-mix jumper, £69, Mistral. Jeans, £49.95, Gap. Watch, from £195, Links of London

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YOU WILL NEED -----



(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT)
FRUIT LADDER Essential for picking from tall trees, the tapered design means this is stable on the ground but gives good access to the crown of the tree. It is also useful for pruning.

DRYING RACKS Use these to ensure fruit and vegetables are completely dry before storing them. The open mesh allows the air to circulate all the way round your crop and prevent rotting.

wooden crates The best way to store apples and pears over winter; leave in a dark, dry place. As they are more easily marked, pears should be individually wrapped in paper to protect the skin – one bruise can spoil the whole box.

KNIFE Harvest brassicas by cutting close to the ground with a sharp knife. A folding model that you can keep in your pocket is a good idea – Opinel (opinel.com) has a great selection to choose from.

TRUGS With its open design, a traditional trug is usually easier to load with crops than a basket and lighter to carry.

spade Choose a model with a fairly small head to minimise the risk of damaging potatoes, onions and garlic when digging them up.

STRING Tying onions and garlic onto lengths of string is a space-saving way of preserving your crop, as is plaiting (see box overleaf).

COLANDER AND SCISSORS Ideal for collecting cut-andcome-again salad leaves, spinach and kale – snip the latter all through winter.

BASKET AND CROOK

A hooked stick will help you to lower branches on fruit trees or bring tantalising clusters of blackberries into reach. A loosely woven wicker basket is the ideal container for foraged berries – line with a sheet of newspaper to protect the crop.







The rows of espalier pear trees that edge one of the gravel pathways dividing the vegetable beds yield fragrant crops of pears - the superjuicy 'Doyenne du Comice' and 'Beurre Hardy', which has a buttery melting flesh. Both of these are 19th-century French varieties and delicious to eat. We pick them in September or October - to avoid damaging the fruit, Nick places a few inside a soft cloth bag as he stands on a ladder, then transfers these to a trug. We leave the pears to ripen for a month, individually wrapped in crates, before we start eating them. I might also pickle a few (see the recipe on page 70) or use them in tarts. Our small orchard provides a good supply of fruit for the winter months, too, such as 'Egremont Russet', a traditional Sussex apple with a matt skin and wonderful nutty taste, and 'Laxton's Superb', a Victorian dessert apple that's slightly sweeter than 'Cox's Orange Pippin'.

We always choose a dry day to dig up our potatoes, working the spade gently around the plant so as not to scrape, bruise or cut the tubers. Our favourite variety is 'Pink Fir Apple', which



PREPARING SOFT FRUIT FOR THE FREEZER

Raspberries, blackberries, blackcurrants and blueberries can all be preserved this way. First, pick the fruit over to remove any insects and bits of leaves. Place the berries in one layer on a freezer-proof tray and space each one evenly apart. Open-freeze until solid and transfer to bags and boxes. This way, the fruit will stay whole and won't clump together.

SMALLHOLDING













HOW TO PLAIT ONIONS

- ① To lift onions, first clear the soil around the tops gently with your hands, then dig or scoop the plant out of the ground with the dying stalk on top.
- 2 Leave to dry on a pathway or on a rack to allow the onions time to harden and for the flavour to develop. The long, yellowed leaves at the top will form 'strings' for plaiting.
- 3 In theory, all the onions should be of a similar size but home-grown ones are not usually uniform. If you have a mixture, tie in the larger, heavier ones near the bottom and smaller, lighter ones near the top.
- 4 Start with three long dry strings and create a short plait to secure. Then every time you turn a string over, start tying in a new onion. As you work, keep the plait tight so the onions will stay in place when hanging. When you reach the desired length, tie the tops together in a knot, attach a loop of string and hang the finished plait on a hook so it is both accessible and decorative.

Watch our how-to video at countryliving.co.uk



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SMALLHOLDING





has a nobbly shape and delicious waxy flesh – it's considered a 'second early' or 'maincrop' and does store but we tend to eat most of them soon after collecting. Those that we do keep for longer are brushed to remove the soil and placed away from the apple crop, as the ethylene gas from the fruit will cause the potatoes to spoil. We store them in hessian sacks or on drying trays in the granary, then bring them into the house in small batches and keep in a basket in the dark depths of the unused bread oven so they don't start sprouting.

The ground here is thin soil over a clay subsoil, so our carrot of choice is 'Early Scarlet Horn', as it has a short root - we leave it to overwinter in the ground and pull as required. It can also be kept in a box of sand with the foliage removed. Knowing when to harvest is key - our 'Boltardy' beetroot, for example, needs to be gathered in quite early - any left too long will go to the pigs. The borlotti climbing beans are left to part-dry on the vine - the trick is to pick them as late as possible but not to leave them too long or the autumn rains will cause them to rot. It's a case of brinkmanship and a lot of checking of forecasts and peering at the sky. I then place the beans in trays on south-facing windowsills for a few weeks, shell and put them in Kilner-type jars before soaking and adding them to winter soups and stews.

All of the onions we grow - 'Red Baron', 'Piroska Red' and white 'Snowball' last well, as

do the 'Longor' shallots. Stringing or plaiting is a great way to store a glut in a small space (see previous page) – we hang them in the porch or in the kitchen beside the Rayburn so they stay as dry as possible. We like having signs of our harvest around the home and outbuildings – butternut squash is left on top of a cupboard or strung up in individual nets.

The girls love helping to pick the juicy offerings in our soft-fruit section, which is in a sunny, sheltered spot in the field beyond the kitchen garden. We always choose heavy cropping cultivars for reliability and simplicity, and the kitchen is filled with baskets of redcurrants, blackcurrants, jostaberries, gooseberries, blueberries, raspberries and strawberries. I turn what I can into jams and jellies, and freeze some for making smoothies in the winter months, while any surplus not eaten fresh is turned into ice cream, which never lasts long in our house.

As well as picking from the plot, we all go foraging in the woodlands. It's a race against the squirrels to collect the cobnuts – they like them green and sweet, and so do we. There are always plenty of blackberries to gather – although perhaps not quite as many now the pigs have reduced the briars that were threatening to take over the field when we first moved to Walnuts Farm. In our book, a day spent harvesting is a day well spent.

WHAT TO DO IN THE KITCHEN GARDEN THIS MONTH

- Continue to net cabbages to protect against pigeons.
- Plant broad beans and peas
- In dry weather, give crops left to stand through winter a final hoeing.
- Move hens, in their arcs or behind netting, onto beds to do selective weeding



Missed Keeping sheep' in our August issue? Download it at countryliving.co.uk.







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SMALLHOLDING



OVERWINTERING VEGETABLES

Given the right protection, certain crops can be left in the ground and harvested throughout the colder months

- Winter salads should be covered with glass cold-frames or plastic tunnel cloches.
 This will prevent the leaves from being splashed by the rain and also raise the temperature slightly.
- Carrots can be stored for winter use in a number of ways. On well-drained soils, they can be left in the ground, shielded against the cold by a thick layer of straw, bracken or soil, although this can make harvesting difficult. They can also be protected by an earth clamp—to make one, choose a sheltered, dry site and only use carrots in good condition. Shake off the loose soil and remove any foliage. Dig a shallow hole and cover with a thick layer of sharp sand. Build a neat, low circular wall of carrots, packed in tightly. Continue adding carrots to form a pyramid shape. Cover with a layer of thick straw and plastic sheeting. The same technique is also suitable for potatoes.
- Beetroots and parsnips can be left in the ground and lifted as needed. Prevent the ground from freezing by covering with straw or horticultural fleece.
- Once Jerusalem artichokes have flowered and turned brittle and brown, cut down the stems to avoid windbreak but leave a shortish section showing, so that you know where to look for the tubers. Place the prunings over plants to keep the soil warm and help with lifting in frosty weather. They can also be added to the compost or laid along the base of a young establishing hedge to provide it with nutrients and suppress weeds.









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This is a good way to use up smaller pears, as they can be kept whole for pickling – choose firm, unblemished ones with no soft spots or bruising

Preparation 25 minutes Cooking 30 minutes Makes about Ikg

juice of half a lemon, plus the juice and pared rind of 1 lemon 1.25kg under-ripe pears 500g granulated sugar 500g cider vinegar 1 tsp fennel seeds 1 tsp coriander seeds 1 bay leaf

- Till a large bowl with cold water and stir in the juice from the lemon half. Peel the pears and, depending on their size, leave whole or halve lengthways and core. Put them straight into the acidulated water as you peel each one to stop them discolouring. Set aside.
- Put all of the ingredients, except the pears, into a large stainless-steel pan

- and gently heat until the sugar has dissolved. Bring to the boil for 5 minutes.
- Drain the pears in a colander. Lower the heat to a simmer and add the fruit. Cover and cook for 5-20 minutes depending on the level of ripeness. Check every 5 minutes with the point of a sharp knife they should be just tender.
- 4 Remove the pears with a slotted spoon and pack tightly into sterilised jars. Pour over the vinegar mixture the pears should be completely submerged. If not, add a drop more vinegar. Seal with a vinegar-proof lid and leave in a cool, dark place for at least a month before eating. Serve alongside a good strong cheese or slices of home-cooked ham.









TRADITION - 2 Tenith a ZOLL STATE TO THE STATE OF THE STA

Drawing on centuries-old boatbuilding techniques, Jane Crisp creates a collection of strikingly beautiful garden trugs – each one the perfect fusion of the past and the present

WORDS BY LOUISE ELLIOTT PHOTOGRAPHS BY CRISTIAN BARNETT









CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT
Jane at work on new projects
at the desk she built herself in
her fenland studio; she knits

the contemporary upholstery for her chairs using besom handles; lengths of patinated brass are added to some trugs

a shed, and was given an electric screwdriver when I was 12! Having a floating home reawakened that passion and I began inventing cupboards and fittings for the small space." In her late twenties, Jane returned to education and completed a Furniture Making and Upholstery course at the College of West Anglia in Wisbech, where she won a City & Guilds Gold Award for excellence for a foldaway desk that incorporated a bookshelf. This was followed by a degree in Furniture: Design & Craft at Bucks New University in High Wycombe: "It was the most practical one I could find and involved benchwork most of the time." A brief to create a batch product in her second year sparked the idea for her innovative trugs, with the shape of the components echoing the triangular form of the water reeds she had observed while on the boat: "I displayed them at the New Designers exhibition as part of my final degree show and the response was amazing. I've never looked back."

Moving to the remote 1930s house in Hale Fen with her partner Danny Eves, an engineer, allowed her to pursue her dream of leading a simple life while making a living from crafting with wood. "I knew I could put the cluster of old outbuildings to good use as workshops with very little outlay," she says. "I patched them up and insulated them with materials I found in skips – I needed to start creating and selling without spending money."

With its patchwork of fields swaying with golden corn and vivid red poppies in late summer, reedbeds dotted with small hump-backed bridges and lined with rustling weeping willows, and yards full of ancient farming machinery, the landscape connects



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CRAFT

BELOW Lengths of veneer are fed through the steam box to make the timber pliable

RIGHT Jane wanted her designs to showcase the natural beauty of wood





Jane with the agricultural world that lies just beyond her working environment. This link is not only evident in her collection of trugs for harvesting produce but also in the milking stools she

makes in elm and tops with cushions woven on hand-built looms from recycled woollen blankets dyed in bright natural colours. "From the back garden, I can head straight out into the fields and watch the land being worked - everything comes alive at harvest time. I always take a camera with me to record ideas - the movement of the wind in the crops, perhaps, or the shape of a particular plant."

These moments help as well to clear her head so that she can return refreshed to her studio - a light-filled extension at the back of the typical yellow-brick fenland house that has French windows leading out into the garden and a large window above the desk she built herself. Here, Jane works on designs for future projects, sometimes creating mock-ups in copper wire and paper from her photographs. These are displayed around the space, along with seed heads and feathers gathered on her daily walks, favourite ceramics, balls of wool and string, and packaging, while an array of trugs hangs

from the beams ready for dispatch. Back in her workshop, she continues the labour-intensive process of creating these individual pieces. It takes about 15 minutes of steaming the ash and olive ash she uses for the wood to become bendy enough after years of practice, Jane can often smell when it's ready rather than relying on her watch. Working quickly, she skilfully bends the material around a 'former' or mould screwed onto an old

wooden wine crate and leaves it until it is cool enough to hold its shape. Then Jane begins to assemble the components, hammering in copper nails - a traditional boatbuilding fixing -

> to hold each element in place. For some designs, she replaces one piece of wood with a length of brass, cut by Danny on a guillotine, which adds extra strength and weight. "To build up a patina, I do a bit of a Jackson Pollock and flick vinegar onto the metal every day for a week beforehand," Jane explains. "This creates layers of blue and green - I like to think of it as building up a sense of history that will grow even more as the trug ages." Finally, each one will be sanded and waxed with oil, eventually ready to meet the huge number of orders that now flood in for these and her furniture range through her website and via exhibitions.

and my craft." So she is concentrating even more on

plants shaped by the wind and working on ideas for decorative spheres. Each one will no doubt draw on her talent for giving traditional crafts a contemporary and very covetable twist.

"I never imagined everything would take off so quickly," she says. "Being accepted onto this year's Hothouse 5 maker programme run by the Crafts Council has helped me to develop the business emphasising the sculptural qualities of her work, producing a lampshade that echoes the forms of

🕖 Jane Crisp (07595 479660; janecrisp.com). Prices start from £99.95 for a small trug. Jane will be at Handmade at Kew from 8-11 October 2015 (handmadeinbritain.co.uk).

CL READER OFFER

CL readers can enjoy a ten per cent discount on Jane's range of trugs. To order, visit janecrisp.com and quote CL+JC before 30 September 2015.







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magine the perfect spread for a summer garden party. A pastel rainbow of delicate macaroons with soft, mouthwatering fillings; glistening fruit tartlets scattered with rose petals; pretty plates piled high with just-warm muffins; and huge slices of indulgent cake just waiting to be devoured. Now imagine all this with an added bonus – these sweet offerings are good for you.

Suffolk pâtissière Henrietta Inman is on a mission to give teatime temptations a healthy twist. "Food is about getting together, sharing and bringing happiness – and what better way to celebrate than with cake?" says Henrietta, 28. "But using local, seasonal and nourishing ingredients is really important to me, too. It's not about being preachy – they are cakes, after all, and should be treats – but they can also be nutritious and delicious, and that's why I created Clean Cakes." To paraphrase an old television advert, Henrietta's bakes are nice but not naughty – well, not too naughty – and switch refined flours and sugar for more wholesome elements, especially those from the countryside around her.

Her kitchen looks out onto a three-acre garden, containing a huge vegetable patch ("tended by my mother, picked by me"), as well as fruit bushes, including red, white and blackcurrants, raspberries and gooseberries, and a selection of old plum, damson, apple, pear and medlar trees. The garden, along with the abundance of high-quality local food producers in the area, is the inspiration for her new recipes. A trained pastry chef, or pâtissière, Henrietta has always had a fascination with food. As a child she loved experimenting with creations baked in her mother's Aga in their 16th-century farmhouse in Great Glemham, Suffolk. She studied languages at Edinburgh University, and months spent in Italy and France served to confirm her love of cooking as she soaked up as





Her kitchen looks out onto a three-acre garden, containing a vegetable patch, fruit bushes and old plum, apple and pear trees

much knowledge as she could about local delicacies. So after university she sought training as a chef. "I enjoyed art at school, too, and have always been quite creative. Pâtisserie appeals to the eyes first, and I liked the idea of the fine detail," explains Henrietta, who enrolled on the professional patisserie scholarship at Westminster Kingsway College in London. "I trained at The Lanesborough Hotel, London, starting in the pastry kitchen of the hotel, then moved to its Michelin-starred Apsleys restaurant, where I made afternoon teas, pastries, macaroons and other petit fours, scones, ice creams, chocolates and desserts."

But after five years of working in professional kitchens, including for chefs Heinz Beck and Skye Gyngell, Henrietta decided to return to her country home and set up on her own. To keep costs down, she used a small loan from her parents to transform her mother's laundry room into a professional kitchen. "I had to buy a commercial hob, as the Aga wasn't precise enough, and I also bought an induction hob, blender, mixers, pans and stainless-steel workstations," Henrietta says. "My mother still has her washing machine in here, and the old clothes pulley is a good place for my utensils to hang."

By December 2013, her business, Henrietta Inman Pâtissière, was up and running, supplying macaroons, cakes and tarts to local farmers' markets including those at Snape Maltings, Saxmundham and Woodbridge. Word soon spread, with



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RURAL BUSINESS

praise coming from food hero the Countess of Cranbrook and food writer Diana Henry. Henrietta was then invited to create 'pop-up pâtisseries' at food events, including the Alde Valley Spring Festival and Aldeburgh Food & Drink Festival.

"I loved doing the markets and meeting my customers. It was great to get feedback but it also made me realise that there's an increasing number of people who are cutting out or back on gluten and dairy, and people are more conscious about the amount of sugar they eat," she explains. "At the same time, I was becoming more interested in nutrition and studying for a diploma with the Institute for Optimum Nutrition – and frankly getting a bit disheartened with weighing out endless quantities of refined sugar, white flour and butter. I started to think about how I could make my cakes better and more nourishing, and saw that I had many of the resources all around me. I began using

gluten-free flour from Shipton Mill, and spelt and rye from Maple Farm. Then I replaced dairy with nut milks and cold-pressed extra-virgin rapeseed oil from Hill Farm, and switched caster sugar for honey from down the road, as well as date syrups and coconut nectar," adds Henrietta, who started a blog in November 2014 to chart her experiments and share her recipes.

The garden enables her to put a truly British, as well as a wholesome, spin on classic French pâtisserie – and she incorporates flowers just as much as fruit and vegetables. "I now use rapeseed oil instead of butter in my pumpkin, carrot and walnut cake – the nuttier, earthier taste works really well. Raspberry, rose and pistachio tart is another bestseller [pictured on opening pages], and I also devised a buckwheat and almond pastry shell with a frangipane made with coconut sugar. "I love playing with flowers and herbs, and use lavender, basil, thyme, marigolds



Quine from the Congo

Bitter Orange from Tanzania





Lemon Thyme from Provence

Lemons from Sicily



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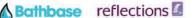
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HOUSE OF TREASURES

An atmospheric palette of warm greys and greens provides an ideal backdrop for eye-catching arrangements of quirky collections and handcrafted pieces, bringing delightful detail to a house in Rye

WORDS BY NICOLA HILL • PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAN BALDWIN/NARRATIVES







PERCHED ON A HILL IN THE ANCIENT TOWN of Rye in

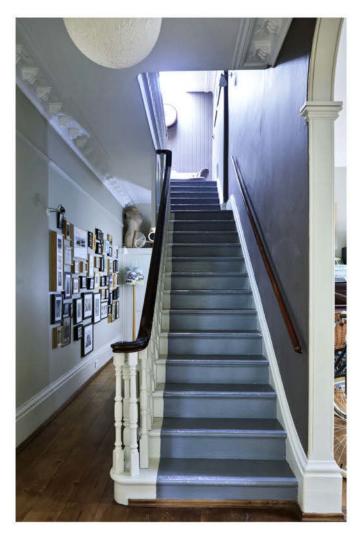
East Sussex, Sarah Benton's beautiful Victorian house reflects her theatre-design background and talent for setting a scene at every turn. Intriguing arrangements of artworks and illustrations catch the eye in unexpected places, while a contemporary palette contrasts with collections of vintage finds gathered over the years - old clocks, 1940s cabinets, traditional school chairs and stacks of weathered suitcases for storage. This is most definitely a home with character.

Sarah moved here from London 17 years ago with her husband Mark and baby son Archie (now 17), soon to be joined by daughters Grace (now 14) and Fig (ten). "I wanted a lifestyle change so I could spend more time with the family - and live beside the sea," she recalls. "We were drawn to this house because of its 'lovely bones' - generous-sized rooms with high ceilings, wide panel doors and delicate mouldings. Friends of ours had lived here before, so we knew it would be perfect for us once we decorated it in our style."

The large square entrance hall sets the relaxed mood found in every room - an old map covers one wall, with bicycles, books and assorted musical instruments displaying some of the family's interests. Passing through an archway into the sitting room, a 3

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"We were drawn to this house because of its 'lovely bones' – generous-sized rooms with high ceilings, wide panel doors and delicate mouldings"

huge bay window frames views of sheep grazing the marshes that stretch towards the sea, while the pale blue-green colour on the walls alters in tone as the light changes throughout the day. A beautiful painting by local artist Fred Cuming is given pride of place above an earthy brown linen L-shaped sofa with deep violet cushions and a grassy green mohair throw, while a rough-hewn table and bowl, wicker log basket and fleece rug introduce a rustic element.

The family kitchen beyond is, of course, the heart of the home, with hand-built cupboards and French windows opening onto the garden. Natural linen curtains in a soft purple, blue metro tiles behind the woodburner and painted furniture in uplifting hues make this a room where everyone loves to congregate. A turquoise glass pulley light hangs above a long wooden refectory table surrounded by a mix of painted and bentwood chairs to accommodate a crowd.

Upstairs, the landing, painted in a contemporary dark grey, leads to each of the bedrooms and a large family bathroom. The master

OPPOSITE Handmade freestanding painted pieces are combined with the warm tones of bare wood in the kitchen, creating a warm, informal look THIS PAGE, ABOVE LEFT Walls in London Clay and woodwork in Shaded White, both by Farrow & Ball, make a stylish combination in

the hall, where one of the walls is used as a gallery for family photos ABOVE RIGHT A small, comfortable sofa from McCully & Crane, positioned beneath a skylight on the landing, makes a quiet spot to read and relax. A Newgate clock and standard lamp add to the inviting feel

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INTERIORS







THIS PAGE Reflective wall tiles in the walk-in shower pick up the calming greenish-grey hue of Farrow & Ball's Pigeon, used on the walls and panelling in the generous-sized family bathroom. The dark slate floor offsets classic white fittings, including a roll-top bath with claw feet **OPPOSITE** Fairy lights and a patchwork cover made by Sarah from the children's outgrown clothes add bright, pretty touches to elder daughter Grace's room

bedroom also has a huge bay window and stunning sea views. With its painted iron bedstead and grey-green panelling, Archie's room has a more austere mood but displays his love of 1940s design and graphics, and features seed posters from the 1930s hanging from the picture rail. Gracie's room has a lighter, prettier feel – fairy lights are strung around the head of the bed, which is topped with a colourful bedspread Sarah made from the children's outgrown clothes. Youngest daughter Fig's room is the smallest, more of a cosy nook, decorated with old school posters.

Sarah's creativity also extends into the garden, with its range of hideaways. The adult-sized treehouse was built by the children's

godfather, Rupert Walton, from reclaimed materials including a Regency-style arched window. Inside, there is a little narrow bed with a patchwork bedspread and a chair covered in a knitted blanket, plus piles of board games and books. Guests sometimes sleep inside the cosy shepherd's hut but mostly it's a fun place for the family to relax. The kitchen garden was created as a surprise birthday present for Grace, who loves nature. "We made five raised beds with railway sleepers and added nestboxes and a white picket fence," Sarah recalls.

Sarah is passionate about mid-century design and loves the work of the Bloomsbury Group – her interest in the arts and



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OUT & ABOUT

that's tricky to visit to pique Sussex is owned by the National Trust, but is open only on Thursdays and Fridays from April to 25 September if you have pre-booked (nationaltrust. The Spread Eagle Hotel (dinner and tour (hshotels.co.uk).

GROW YOUR INTEREST

If you are contemplating a career change and like the idea of becoming a gardener, the good news is that the Women's Farm & Garden Association currently has more spaces available on its WRAGS training programme than there are people to fill them. The one-year practical course provides two days a week of hands-on experience in selected private and public gardens with supervised tuition and pays the trainees an allowance. For more details, visit wfga.org.uk.

Everything you need to know to get the most from your plot in September

WORDS BY STEPHANIE DONALDSON

flowers. Begonia sutherlandii is another Star performer with small leaves accompanied by a cascade of fourpetalled apricot blooms right up until the first frosts. At that stage, I bring the pots undercover and leave them to die back and dry out in winter. Both are species begonias, with no but my other recommendation is a modern cultivar. Begonia 'Cascade White' is a trailing variety that is much more elegant than its oversized relatives. All three are now essential ingredients in my late-summer garden - see how it's looking at theenduringgardener.com. You can also read a plantsman's musings at johngrimshaws gardendiary.blogspot.co.uk.



THIS MONTH...

I never thought the day would come when I would be a begonia enthusiast - in my defence, though, it is a selective enthusiasm. Not for me the big, blowsy performers beloved of pub hanging baskets - my preference is for the hardy and near-hardy varieties that flower happily in the shady areas of my garden. The most impressive – and the least demanding - is Begonia grandis subsp. evansiana (above), which flourishes in dry semi-shade, where its heart-shaped fresh-green leaves are topped by hanging clusters of dainty sugary-pink

WHAT TO DO

In the greenhouse

Remove any dead leaves on tomatoes and reduce watering to encourage fruit to ripen. Take cuttings of tender perennials such as salvias. Remove shading and clean the glass.

In the garden

Plant clematis and put early spring bulbs (except tulips) in the borders. Keep liquid-feeding pots and deadheading to extend flowering. Lift and divide woodland and water irises, and replant immediately.

On the allotment

Lift maincrop potatoes and sow

green manures. Plant new strawberries in fresh ground.

E SEASON

when drifts of their flowers hover above the borders, supported by wiry stems that make them resistant to high wind or heavy rain. Colours range from purest white through various shades of pink, and there are single and double forms. Once established, they are easy to grow and are tolerant of all conditions, so much so that you may want to plant them where they won't become a nuisance. For a wide range of cultivars, visit crocus.co.uk.

BUY WISELY Tool racks

ADAPTABLE The Burgon & Ball tool rack (below) can hold up to 11 clips on each rack. Tools are secured by pushing into a clip and each one will hold up to 3kg in weight (£14.95, organic gardeningcatalogue.com).

TWO-TIER Agriframes' model has space for both hand tools and larger garden implements (£18.50, agriframes.co.uk). **STYLISH** Garden Trading's tool hook rail is made from powder-coated steel and features alternating pairs of large and small hooks (£24, gardentrading.co.uk).



Tip: if you don't have a cool, dark, airy place to store tulip bulbs until November, it's better to plant them than let them deteriorate

EVENT The RHS Wisley Flower Show in Surrey runs from 8-13 September (rhs.org.uk).

Salad

The Organic Plant Company has an exclusive offer on winter-hardy salad plants. Buy four each (usually two) of winter purslane, lamb's lettuce (corn salad, right), land cress, 'Winter Density' and 'Arctic King' lettuces, and wild rocket for £8.25 incl. p&p. Call 01354 740553, quoting CL0915, or visit organicplants.co.uk.*



PICK OF THE SHRUBS Perovskia 'Blue Spire'

WHY? Its aromatic foliage and upright plumes of lavender-blue flowers look wonderful in the late-summer border where it blends well with grasses and other perennials. Also known as Russian sage, it's unfussy and even copes well with chalky soils and salt-laden winds. WHERE? Give it lots of sunshine and it will establish happily in poor, free-draining soil. Planted next to a path, it will release a pleasant sage-like fragrance when brushed against.

BEWARE It does have a tendency to flop, so is best hard-pruned to its woody framework in March to keep it as bushy as possible.





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Room to

A plain shed or outbuilding can become a private, stylish space where you can lock yourself away for hours to read and relax or pursue your favourite hobby. Follow these simple ideas to create a tranquil hideaway in your own back garden







OPPOSITE Make the outside of the structure as charming as possible. Here, a soft shade of grey is complemented by a hanging galvanised planter made from a

bucket and wooden furniture bleached to a pale shade by the sun THIS PAGE, ABOVE LEFT Balance more rustic elements with pretty finishing touches, such as this array of birdhouses fixed onto tongue-and-groove boarding. ABOVE CENTRE
A colour scheme of mint green and pink

takes its inspiration from the flowers all around it. Garden implements and a neat white-painted windowbox help to soften the exterior ABOVE RIGHT Old metal furniture and accessories have the perfect feel for an outdoor space. Always keep colourful fresh blooms on display

DECORATING

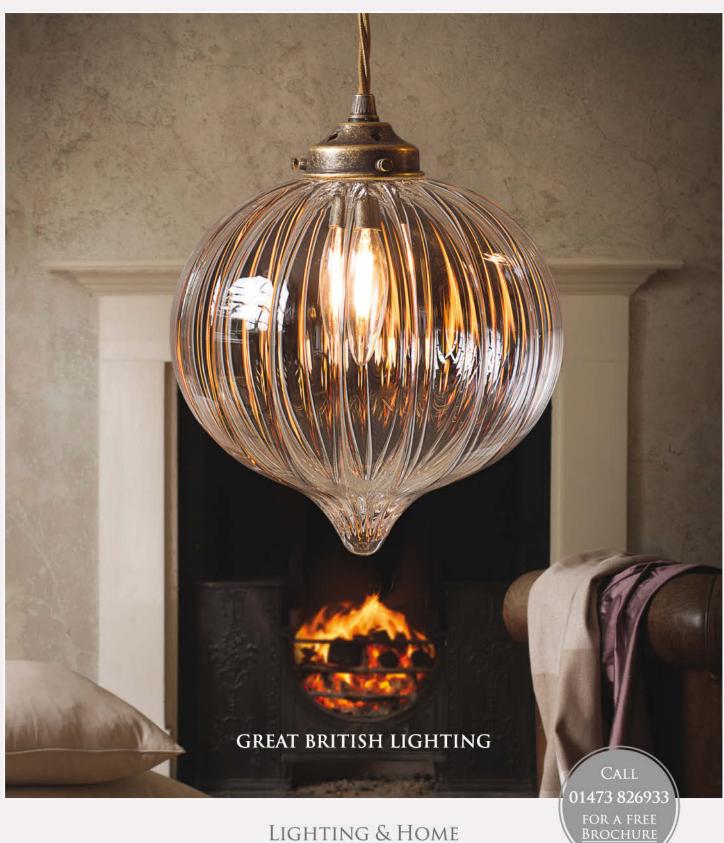


LEFT This glazed building was constructed from salvaged windows and doors found at a flea market. The greenand-white painted chequerboard floor unites the two main colours and draws the eye into the space BELOW LEFT Create a tranquil spot for a daybed with a beautiful botanical wallpaper and simple curtains to shut out the light **BELOW RIGHT** Exterior boarding gives this building a strong coastal character, continued inside with white tongue-andgroove walls and a comfortable armchair upholstered in navy linen. A traditional orchard ladder introduces a rustic touch and suits the garden setting 3









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friend for life and a constant companion, a pet quickly becomes an integral part of your family and can be relied upon to be there for you no matter what. There are few more joyful things in life than a dog welcoming you home with a wagging tail, or a purring cat longing for attention, so it's very important to look after all aspects of their wellbeing. Help to keep your cats and dogs comfortable and healthy by applying Frontline® Spot On monthly - the UK's No.1 flea and tick protection* - to provide continuous protection from fleas and ticks, all year round. Up

to one in ten dogs and one in five cats have fleas**, which can cause them to suffer from itchy and sore skin. These parasites can also carry tapeworm, while ticks transmit infectious diseases, such as Lyme Disease to both humans and animals. Frontline Spot On kills fleas and ticks and helps to prevent the diseases they carry. Your dog or cat can even be bathed or go swimming 48 hours after application. Apply Frontline Spot On monthly to all cats and dogs in your household to ensure that they are protected against fleas and ticks throughout the year, as happy pets make for happy homes.

Frontline Spot On is available from pharmacies, pet stores, veterinary clinics and online. For more information, visit uk.frontline.com.

It's important to look after every aspect of your pets' wellbeing







VISIT THE MAKERS' MARQUEE AT The Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials

3-6 Sept 2015

COUNTRY LIVING IS DELIGHTED to once again be a part of this prestigious event, held in the beautiful parkland of Burghley House in Stamford, Lincolnshire. A highlight on the social and equestrian calendar, a visit to the Horse Trials makes a wonderful day out for all the family, with the chance to picnic, enjoy the competition and, of course, to shop.

The main Country Living Pavilion, located on Avenue A, is home to around 50 hand-picked exhibitors with a tempting range of homeware, art, gifts and delicious food and drink. And back for its second year is our Makers' Marquee, which is part of our commitment to supporting and promoting small and start-up businesses and rural craftspeople from across Britain. In the marquee, you will find a stylish showcase of specially selected designers, makers and artisans, many of whom are exhibiting for the first time. It's a unique opportunity to meet, talk

to and buy from these inspiring crafters, who all hand-make or design their own products from scratch. Plus, visit the Makers' Marquee during the event and you will

Win a Pashley bike, worth £645, at our Makers' Marquee be able to enter a competition to win a coveted Country Living 30th Anniversary specialedition Pashley bicycle, worth £645.

Once you've shopped, you can relax with a cup of specially blended tea in our traditional café run by Tea Vintage. It will serve its own blends of whole-leaf tea along with homemade cakes, all charmingly presented on vintage crockery, or try a refreshing retro treat from the ice-cream cart. Throughout the event there will be children's facepainting and on Sunday enjoy the novelty dog show by The Tailwaggers' Club. You can follow the showjumping action live on the big screen near the marquee, which you'll find adjacent to the Land Rover arch at Discovery Valley, overlooking the first half of the cross-country course. We look forward to meeting you there.









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Prices are per person and apply to visitors aged 13 years and above. Children aged 12 years and under (accompanied by an adult) are admitted free of charge. Booking fee and postage apply.

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SECRETS GLORIOUS GARDEN

Here, we follow the growing year in the beautiful gardens at Loseley Park in Surrey, with plenty of practical ideas for you to use in your own plot

WORDS BY STEPHANIE DONALDSON • PHOTOGRAPHS BY JASON INGRAM



SEPTEMBER: THE FINAL FLOURISH

THE GARDENS CLOSE at the end of this month and the bright borders gradually begin to wind down as both the annuals and perennials pass their flowering peak. There are still highlights of colour among the foliage, but the overall mood is softer and more impressionistic. The focus moves from feeding, watering and deadheading to harvesting seed, taking cuttings and tidying so the planting remains interesting for visitors right up to the last day of opening. However, the vegetable garden is at its most abundant, providing plenty of produce for the house throughout autumn and winter.





BURNEY'S TIP FOR SEPTEMBER TAKING CUTTINGS

At Loseley, all cuttings are taken at this time of year, both for growing next year and for selling at the spring show (22-24 April 2016). We find that the use of plug trays makes it much easier to take, care for and pot on the new plants.

TECHNIQUE OF THE MONTH SEED COLLECTING

Gathering this from your own garden saves money and guarantees that next year's sowing is as fresh as possible. Start with easy-to-harvest, large-seeded varieties – for example, calendula or sunflowers – before attempting anything more fiddly. Some seeds, especially F1 hybrids, won't come true to type but most of the old-fashioned cottage-garden favourites will grow reliably from home-harvested seed. Essentially, anything that self seeds in your garden year after year is worth collecting – that way, you can control where it grows. At Loseley, Burney collects from many of the annuals and biennials that are mainstays of the borders throughout the garden.

- It is time to harvest when the seed heads are brown and dry and the seeds are hard
- Place the cut seed heads in a brown paper bag or on a sheet of newspaper
- Ripe seed will fall readily from the seed head – don't try to remove every last one, as some of it may not be quite fully ripe
- Place the seed on a sheet of clean, dry paper and gently blow on it (winnowing) to remove debris and any small ones, as these will never grow as well









SEASONAL TASKS AT LOSELEY

- Hoeing continues throughout the garden to prevent weeds from establishing (right)
- Crops are picked regularly in the vegetable garden
- Pumpkins are harvested and left to ripen on the beds (centre right)
- Over-mature perennials and leggy shrubs are replaced with young plants that will establish over winter
- Pelargonium cuttings are taken
- Dead-heading of late-flowering roses continues (far right)











BURNEY'S TOP SEED TO SAVE

Cardoon (above) Perennial ornamental relative of the globe artichoke, traditionally grown from seed Echinops (above right) Prickly perennial with spherical flowers in shades from silvery white to deep blue Bronze fennel (right) Prolific self-seeding perennial, so cut off most seed heads when ripe to avoid widespread dispersal Purple orach (far right) Edible annual with attractive blue-purple leaves Hollyhock (below right) Tall cottage-garden perennial - select seed from singleflowered varieties **Angelica** Large self-seeding biennial with attractive flower and seed heads - remove most of these before the seeds drop

Woad Tall biennial smothered with yellow flowers in May







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GARDENING



FROM TOP LEFT

Miscanthus sinensis 'Zebrinus'; mallow in the white garden; Japanese anemone; caster-oil plant seed pods; picking runner beans; pumpkins are cut and left to ripen in the sun; 'Concorde' pears; freshly pulled carrots

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LET THERE BE LIGHT

As the borders fade and the sun's trajectory across the sky is not as high, the softer hues in the flower garden are beautifully illuminated by the low light that filters through the plants. It brings a particular sense of drama to this area of the garden in autumn, when it sparkles off the dew drops on euphorbia leaves, highlights the shimmering flower heads of ornamental grasses and picks up the splashes of late colour provided by vivid orange tithonia and clusters of prickly red seed pods on castor-oil plants. The strong overhead light of summer draws the eye to bold hues, but tends to flatten perspective, while the low-angled light of autumn creates silhouettes and gives depth to the view.

In the white garden, the pale cosmos, mallow and Japanese anemones stand out gently in the filtered sun. Pure white flowers can appear harsh in high summer unless softened by pastel companions, but now they come into their own and will continue to bloom right up to the first frosts.

Magical things happen in the vegetable garden, too, where the pumpkins glow in the golden sun as they ripen. Every leaf on the leeks is outlined in silvery dew drops, and the crinkly leaves of the brassicas reflect the rays

that will feed Loseley's birds through winter, and the feathery foliage of the carrots softens from dark to pale green as the roots mature. The climbing beans have smothered their supports, creating topiary-like structures in the beds, and mellow fruitfulness is much in evidence, with the pears weighing down the branches of the fruit trees.

This is the first year of the re-designed potager – it was much more extensive previously but it was hard to create the right balance of productivity and ornament, and the amount of work involved meant it was tricky to keep it looking its best. Large areas have now been put down to lawn and planted with fruit trees, with generous grass paths laid out to divide up the plots. The luxury of space has given Loseley's vegetable garden an attractive formality that makes it easier to manage and more accessible to visitors who may want to examine it in detail. This is an inspiring space and the helpful volunteers are happy to pause from work to answer visitors' questions.

Deseley Park, Guildford, Surrey (01483 3044440; loseley park.co.uk). Gardens open from May to end of





An old French blacksmith's forge has been transformed into a country cottage, with its original beauty given a fresh, contemporary feel, thanks to the owners' passion for this property from the past

WORDS BY NAOMI JONES | PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB SANDERSON











Collections of tins and old mirrors are evidence of Celine's love of brocante

the renovation. The project involved wiring the entire property – a skill Marc had to learn from scratch – and building an extension to make the new entrance and kitchen/diner. To contrast with the original stone external wall (retained as an internal divider), the new one is made up entirely of glass panels, allowing plenty of light to flood into what would have otherwise been a dark space, while framing beautiful views of the woodland beyond.

Rethinking the layout of the original forge meant they could create two bedrooms upstairs, with a small children's room leading straight off the master one. To save space, Marc installed a spiral staircase and, rather than squeezing in a tiny bathroom upstairs, he used part of the ground floor to form an area large enough for an elegant freestanding bath and adjacent wet room. The large slabs of slate used to cover the floor and walls make a striking rustic choice. "We wanted a material that suited the building's agricultural past, while the uneven texture complements the rough plastered wall above," Celine says.

New dividing walls were built throughout with simple vertical wooden planks painted in shades of warm grey;

the ceilings are also timber but these are off-white with a soft, subtle pink tinge that tones with the plaster. Celine has added a pretty decorative quality to the bedrooms by stencilling the floorboards using a white floral design. "It's an effective way of introducing pattern without overwhelming a room," she says.

The cottage also displays her love of brocante, with collections of everything from jelly moulds and flan tins to vintage toys and old mirrors adding character to a room, while stacks of weathered wicker baskets are often used for storage and bring a sense of texture. "I love going to the different markets around here and searching for something old and beautiful," Celine says. All of these quirky pieces work perfectly inside the old forge and give this clever conversion an individual sense of style – a place where you feel at home immediately.

The old blacksmith's forge is available to rent - for more information, visit lamaisondeslamour.com.

Travel from the UK via ferry (brittany-ferries.co.uk) to St Malo, then drive for about one hour to Plélo.







From spring through to autumn, the borders, beds and branches in a Gloucestershire garden are aflutter with beautiful butterflies of all shades and sizes: drawn to this sheltered, organically cultivated environment, they flourish among colourful, fragrant flowers and shrubs grown specially to fulfil their needs

WORDS BY VAL BOURNE • PHOTOGRAPHS BY LYNN KEDDIE







OPPOSITE A peacock butterfly feeds on nectar-rich buddleja THIS PAGE, ABOVE FROM LEFT The perfectly spherical flower head of *Echinops ritro*; a comma butterfly with its distinctively shaped wings; wild chicory with the foliage of variegated golden privet

GARDENING







THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Delicate mauve Salvia forsskaolii; the orange tip butterfly; a speckled wood butterfly OPPOSITE The perfect spot for afternoon tea

Sally's 21st birthday when they visited Noar Hill just outside Selborne in Hampshire in search of wild orchids. "We saw acres of early purple, fragrant and spotted ones – a complete carpet of pink," she reminisces. As she enjoyed the beauty of the flowers, Matthew pursued his personal passion – butterflies. Not much has changed. Sally still concentrates on plants at Dillycot, their garden in the Gloucestershire village of Culkerton, and Matthew, now the National Trust's renowned butterfly expert, is celebrating his 50-year fascination with a new book entitled *In Pursuit of Butterflies*.

atthew and Sally Oates' first outing as a couple took place on

Their four children are all named after favourite butterflies: "Lucy celebrates the Duke of Burgundy fritillary *Hamearis lucina*, Millie the white admiral *Limenitis camilla* and Arion the large blue *Maculinea arion*. Rosy, our youngest, honours the pearl-bordered fritillary *Boloria euphrosyne*," Sally explains. Butterflies and plants often share a common name, as with the fritillary, sometimes due to appearance or because the plant is the food source for the insect.

Unsurprisingly, the garden is a butterfly haven and totally chemical-free, as Sally, who began gardening aged ten by making a wildlife pond in her parent's old raspberry bed, has always been organic and interested in wildlife. "When we came here in 1992, the plot was full of overgrown miniature conifers, *Alchemilla mollis* and not much else apart from a lovely Bramley apple tree," she recalls. The land was open to the elements and very windswept, so the first thing she did was plant native hedges as protection.

Everything the couple grows is designed to sustain insect life. "Species and native plants are wonderful for butterflies, as they usually have more nectar," Sally explains. So she nurtures





The garden is filled with different types of buddleja – the most popular plant with butterflies

dandelions, the scourge of most gardeners, because their spring flowers sustain the brimstone, small tortoiseshell and peacock. Hoverflies and tiny native bees also adore them. "I allow them to produce their clocks, which I think look attractive, and my favourite bird – the goldfinch – loves their seeds."

The garden is at its floriferous peak in July and August, and it is the buddlejas that prove most popular with the butterflies, although Sally confesses she's lost count of how many varieties she has: "The most spectacular is 'Dartmoor', which is quite large and bears huge 'hands' of flowers, quite unlike any other, and attracts red admirals, peacocks, brimstones, small tortoiseshells, whites and commas." Moths also visit the bushes and many a summer evening is spent watching the bats catching them. Sally thins out the branches in autumn to prevent wind rock, then prunes them lightly in spring to encourage earlier flowers – she doesn't take them down low to the ground and is particularly careful with the variegated <code>Buddleja davidii</code> 'Harlequin', as hard pruning can kill it off. Seed heads are left on because these sustain birdlife in winter.

Roses provide another beautiful addition and Sally chose the varieties carefully. The mid-pink rambling rose 'Minnehaha' was a favourite of her mother and grandmother, while the magnificent creamy-salmon 'The Garland' scents the garden on summer mornings and bears upright trusses of small orange hips later in the year. 'Crimson Shower', another single-flowering rambler with semi-double flowers, is always the last to perform. Her fourth rose is the repeat-flowering 'Malvern Hills'— "It's not as exuberant as the others but, grown in full light, the flowers are almost cream rather than yellow and it blooms for months."

Moths are almost as popular as butterflies at Dillycot, attracted by pale flowers in shades of white, pale pink and mauve. "I love white phlox and grow three, including the late-flowering 'Mount Fuji'," Sally says. "I also rate 'David' and 'White Admiral', and all three look absolutely stunning in evening light."

Sally's training as a textile designer has taught her how to combine different shades, and she applies the principles of the colour wheel in the garden with sections of pale pink and blush white alongside deeper pinks. Another area contains deep-purples, burgundies and crimsons, and elsewhere there's a soft mix of lilac and apricot. Sally now has her own cut-flower business, Dillycot Flowers, but always harvests in moderation, ensuring she and Matthew continue to enjoy colonies of butterflies in the midst of their beautiful garden.

The formore information about Dillycot Flowers, visit dillycotflowersuk.uknic.biz. CL readers can order a copy of In Pursuit of Butterflies (Bloomsbury, £18.99) for only £13.29 by visiting bloomsbury.com and quoting the code BUTTERFLY. Offer ends on 1 March 2016.







OPPOSITE The gatekeeper or hedge brown THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Polemonium 'Bressingham Purple'; small white on Verbena bonariensis; comma on buddleja

TOP TEN BUTTERFLY PLANTS

1 Buddleja davidii All forms sustain up to 22 species of butterfly when they are laden with nectar in July and August.

2 Crocus sieberi subsp. sublimis 'Tricolor' The earliest-flowering crocus, with purple, white and yellow blooms from January.

'Bressingham Purple' A refined form of Jacob's ladder with dark foliage and deep-purple flowers in late spring and early summer.

3 Polemonium

4 Taraxacum officinale (dandelion) Flowers close to St George's Day and sustains early butterflies; seed will attract goldfinches.

5 Origanum vulgare (marjoram) Purple-pink clusters of blooms produce highly concentrated nectar; adored by small tortoiseshells, small coppers and others. 6 *Verbena bonariensis*Willowy late-flowering
perennial that forms a perfect
landing platform.

7 Lunaria annua (honesty) April- and May-flowering biennial, popular with early butterflies such as orangetips; Lunaria 'Corfu Blue' flowers later for longer.

8 Allaria petiola (Jack-bythe-hedge) Native biennial, bears white flowers in April and May; food plant for the orange-tip whose caterpillars also feed on sweet rocket (Hesperis matronalis).

9 Dipsacus sylvestris (teasel) Small purple flowers in summer, adored by butterflies and bees, mature into seed heads that attract goldfinches.

10 Echinacea purpurea (purple coneflower) Perennial daisies with nectar-packed centres; 'White Swan' and 'Magnus' are easy to raise.



Sarah Raven's SUPERFOODS



Every month, Sarah picks the healthiest fruit and vegetables to eat in season, with delicious recipes to make the most of their flavours and natural goodness

SEPTEMBER: AUBERGINES

WORDS, RECIPES AND FOOD STYLING BY **SARAH RAVEN** PHOTOGRAPHS BY **JONATHAN BUCKLEY**FOOD AND DRINK EDITOR **ALISON WALKER**

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ubergines have a wonderful look and different varieties arranged in a shallow bowl make a fantastic still-life. Pick from big fat Sicilian ones, like mini Buddhas with vast stomachs; long slim ones from Japan; stripy Italian graffitis and even the standard Dutch with the glossiest, darkest skin. Greeny white or yellow Thai aubergines often cook much quicker but need salting first as they have bitter juices. With most other modern varieties, it's no longer necessary.

As they are high in fibre, aubergines have a meatiness to them, which adds substance to any recipe. Once cooked, the flesh gives a creaminess to a dish, without the cream. For this reason, I love them roasted slowly, then added to soup (see recipe overleaf). Yet they're low in calories and fat, so if you want to reduce your weight or cholesterol, aubergines are a perfect addition to your diet. They also contain plenty of nasunin, an antioxidant that is particularly good for our brain. It gives aubergines their purple colour and is found mostly in the skin, so use that as much as possible in whatever you cook.

Aubergines are a great source of vitamins, too, especially B1 and B6, as well as potassium, copper, magnesium and manganese. They also contain chlorogenic acid – one of the most potent free-radical fighters found in plants, which appears to have anti-cancer, antimicrobial and anti-LDL cholesterol properties.

One word of warning: as a member of the *Solanaceae* nightshade family (which includes bell peppers, tomatoes and potatoes), aubergines contain the compound solanine, which can aggravate inflammation of the joints in arthritis. They contain large amounts of oxalates, so avoid eating too many if you have a history of oxalate-containing stones or gall bladder problems. The rest of us, however, would all benefit from a twice-weekly feast of this valuable vegetable.



BABA GANOUSH

Preparation 20 minutes, plus standing Cooking 35 minutes Makes 4-6 mezze-sized servings When you purée the aubergines, leave as much skin on as possible – it contains the highest level of antioxidants. Serve with raw vegetables and toasted pitta.

2 large aubergines
2 tbsp tahini, plus extra
to taste
juice of 1 lemon, plus extra
to taste
1 tbsp sherry vinegar
2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
1 tbsp toasted cumin seeds,
ground in a pestle and mortar
4 tbsp Kalamata olives, stoned
20g-30g flat-leaved parsley,
chopped
pomegranate seeds (optional)

- Heat the oven to 190°C (170°C fan oven) gas mark 5. Heat the grill.
- Prick the aubergine with a fork in several places and put on a rack 10cm-12cm

- from the grill (or place near the gas flame of a hob or on a barbecue). Cook, turning frequently, for 10-15 minutes until the skin blackens and blisters and the flesh begins to feel soft.
- Transfer the aubergines to a baking sheet and roast in the oven for 15-20 minutes, until very soft. Leave to cool slightly, then peel away the most charred bits.
- 4 Put the aubergines in a sieve and leave to drain. After 30 minutes, place in a bowl and mash to a paste with a fork, or blitz briefly in a food processor.
- 6 Add the tahini, lemon juice, vinegar, I tbsp oil and the cumin seeds and mix well. Season with salt, then taste and add more tahini and/or lemon juice, if necessary.
- 6 Chop and add the olives.
 Drizzle with the remaining oil and sprinkle with parsley and pomegranate seeds (if using). Serve at room temperature.

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AUBERGINE AND MUSHROOM SOUP

Preparation 20 minutes
Cooking I hour Serves 6 as a
main course or 8-10 as a starter
The richness in this creamy
soup comes from the roasted
aubergine, which adds
substance to any dish. Its
slightly earthy taste goes
brilliantly with mushrooms,
as does the seaweed kombu,
the flavouring used here
instead of salt. To get the
most health benefits from
mushrooms, use a mixture
of as many types as you can.

400g mixed mushrooms, quartered (such as flat and button mushrooms, plus shitake, oyster or chestnut)
1 large onion, peeled and roughly chopped
2 large tomatoes (about 200g), roughly chopped
1 large aubergine, chopped into 2cm chunks
2 garlic cloves, skin on
2 tbsp rapeseed oil or 1 tsp set coconut oil sprig of thyme

pinch of dried marjoram
1 level tsp ras el hanout spice
750ml hot vegetable stock
freshly grated nutmeg
drizzle of truffle oil
handful freshly chopped
parsley
pinch of kombu or dulse*

- Heat the oven to 200°C (180°C fan oven) gas mark 6.
- 2 Put the mushrooms, onion, tomatoes, aubergine and garlic in a roasting pan and drizzle with oil. Scatter over the herbs and spices, except the nutmeg. Roast for 40 minutes until the aubergine is soft and blackening around the edges. Squeeze the garlic cloves out of their skins.
- Transfer the vegetables and garlic to a large saucepan, pour in the vegetable stock and simmer gently for 20 minutes.
- Transfer the soup into a food processor or blender and blitz until smooth. Pour back into the saucepan and reheat gently but do not allow to boil.

Grate in plenty of nutmeg and pepper to taste. Serve in bowls with a drizzle of truffle oil, parsley and a sprinkling of dried kombu or dulse seaweed.

SPICED AUBERGINE SALAD WITH POMEGRANATE RAITA

Preparation 35 minutes Cooking I hour Serves 6-8 An intensely flavoured, warming salad made with plenty of Moroccan flavours.

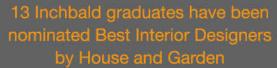
3 large to medium-sized aubergines (about 1kg) 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil 1 large onion, peeled and finely chopped 1 tbsp rapeseed oil 2 tsp each cumin and coriander seeds 1 tsp allspice berries 1 star anise 1 tsp each ground cinnamon and paprika 5 medium-sized tomatoes or a 400g tin chopped tomatoes 30g each of coriander and mint, roughly chopped

FOR THE RAITA

seeds from 1 pomegranate 250g natural Greek yogurt 30g fresh mint, roughly chopped grated zest and juice of 1 lime

- Heat the oven to 200°C (180°C fan oven) gas mark 6.
- Pirst make the raita. To extract the pomegranate seeds, gently roll the fruit around a few times on the table, then slice it in half over a bowl to collect the juice. Holding one half of the fruit cut side down over a bowl, tap the skin with a wooden spoon. The seeds will drop into the bowl without their bitter cream-coloured pith. Mix with the other raita ingredients. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Cover and chill until needed.
- Tice the aubergines into lcm chunks. Brush 2 tbsp olive oil all over and roast them in the oven for about 30 minutes. The oil really adds to the flavour of the dish, so it is worth using a good one. Cook until the edges start to char.
- 4 Meanwhile, fry the onion gently in the rapeseed oil until it's glassy and soft.
- In a separate pan, toast the cumin and coriander seeds, allspice and star anise for a couple of minutes, then grind them to a coarse powder in a spice grinder or using a pestle and mortar.
- Add the toasted spices to the onion, together with the ground cinnamon and paprika, then add the cooked aubergines and tomatoes. Cook the mixture over a gentle heat for 20-30 minutes.
- Once the tomato juice has reduced so there's little liquid left, take the pan off the heat and stir in the fresh herbs. Serve warm with the raita on the side.







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GREEK OCTOPUS AND AUBERGINE WITH HERB SAUCE

Preparation 35 minutes Cooking 1 hour 25 minutes Serves 8

This is an excellent dish to cook for a crowd. You can use frozen octopus - the freezing starts the tenderising process.

1.5kg octopus, cleaned and gutted 2 bay leaves 1 tbsp black peppercorns 3 tbsp red wine vinegar 2kg aubergines, cut into bite-sized chunks 6 tbsp olive oil 1 onion, peeled and finely chopped 2 large fennel bulbs, sliced 1 garlic clove, peeled and finely chopped

1 tbsp fennel seeds 3 x 400g tin tomatoes or 12 large ripe tomatoes, blitzed 4 sprigs thyme 4 tbsp balsamic vinegar FOR THE GREEN SAUCE 1 large bunch (50g-60g) flat-leaf parsley 1 large bunch (50g-60g) mixed herbs (such as chives, fennel, chervil, coriander, sorrel and 1-2 leaves of lovage or winter savory) 4 cornichons, rinsed 20-30 small capers, rinsed 250ml olive oil juice of 1/2 lemon

Place the octopus in a large pan with the bay leaves, peppercorns, vinegar and enough water to cover. Put a small plate into the pan to stop the octopus floating to

the top and ensure it cooks evenly. Cook for 45 minutes.

2 While the octopus cooks, roast the aubergines in one layer on 1-2 baking sheets with 2 tbsp olive oil; season with salt and pepper. Cook for 30 minutes until soft and coloured at the edges.

Heat the remaining oil in a pan and fry the onion and fennel until softened. Add the garlic and fennel seeds and cook for 2 minutes. Stir in the tomatoes, thyme and balsamic vinegar and simmer for 20 minutes.

- Drain the octopus. Cut it in half, remove the shell-like beak and discard. Slice the head into strips and cut the limbs into bite-sized chunks.
- 5 Cook the octopus for another 10 minutes in

the tomato sauce - taste to check it is tender. Add the aubergine and cook for another 10 minutes.

- 6 To make the herb sauce, coarsely chop the herbs. Add the cornichons, capers, oil and lemon juice. Blitz briefly, or chop by hand for a coarse-textured sauce. Season to taste. Serve the octopus with the green sauce, some black or red rice and roast sweet potatoes or squash.
- (i) Sarah has written a number of bestselling gardening and cookery books, and runs a range of courses from her home at Perch Hill in East Sussex. Visit sarahraven.com for more details.



SIMPLE DISHES FOR BUSHES ANS

In her current series showcasing easy but mouthwatering recipes, Alison Walker recreates a selection of traditional café favourites to enjoy during the autumn months





Preparation 10 minutes Cooking 20 minutes Serves 4 Veal may look more like pork than beef but it can be served rare like steak. Choose rose veal*, which is raised humanely. The aniseed flavour of Pernod works beautifully with both veal and mushrooms and won't overpower the sauce.

4 rose veal chops seasoned flour, for dusting 2 tbsp sunflower oil 15g butter 200g mixed mushrooms 50ml Pernod 1 tbsp freshly chopped sage

1 tbsp freshly chopped sage leaves from large sprig of thyme 150ml double cream creamed potato and bitter salad leaves, to serve freshly chopped sage and thyme, to garnish

- Dust the chops with a little seasoned flour.
- Heat I the poil and the butter in a large sauté pan and fry the chops over a

medium to high heat for I minute each side. Turn down the heat to mediumlow and cook the chops for 3-4 minutes, turning halfway through – you may have to do this in two batches depending on the size of your pan. Remove the chops and set on a warmed plate to rest, loosely covered with foil, while you prepare the mushroom sauce.

Put the remaining oil in the same pan and briskly fry

minutes until golden.
Pour in the Pernod to
deglaze the pan, scraping
up all the sticky bits on the
bottom, which will add
flavour to the sauce. Add
the herbs and cream and
bubble gently for 5 minutes

until slightly thickened.

Serve the veal chops with the sauce, some creamed potatoes and bitter salad leaves, if desired, and a sprinkling of chopped sage and thyme.



DUCK CONFIT WITH PUY LENTILS

Preparation 15 minutes Cooking about 40 minutes Serves 4 Slate-green Puy lentils, grown in the Le Puy region of France, are considered to be best due to the area's terroir, which gives them a unique peppery taste.

2 tsp duck fat (from the confit)
150g smoked bacon lardons
1 medium onion, chopped
2 sticks celery, chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
175g Puy lentils, rinsed
375ml red wine
375ml hot chicken stock
1 tsp red wine vinegar
large sprig of thyme

1 bay leaf
4 pieces duck leg confit
1 tsp Dijon mustard
rocket leaves, to serve
extra-virgin olive oil, for
drizzling
flat-leaf parsley, to garnish

 Melt the duck fat in a large pan and gently fry the lardons until they release their fat. Turn up the heat to medium and fry them until golden. Remove with a slotted spoon and set aside.

Question of the same pand of the garlic and cook for a further 1 minute.

3 Stir in the lentils, then pour in the wine, stock and vinegar. Season and add the herbs. Bring to the boil and simmer for 20-25 minutes until the lentils are tender but still have a little bite to them.

Meanwhile, prepare the duck confit according to the packet instructions.

5 Stir the mustard into the lentils and check the seasoning. Divide between warmed plates, scatter with rocket leaves and top with a piece of duck confit. Drizzle with olive oil and garnish with parsley.







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LATE-SUMMER JOBS IN THE GARDEN can

take their toll on hands. Keep them soft and clean with new Lanolips Antibacterial Hand Cream (£8.99, Waitrose), which kills germs and soothes skin with natural aloe and lanolin.

SCIENTISTS ARE INCREASINGLY

DISCOVERING the important role the gut plays in our overall health. *Gut - The Inside Story of Our Body's Most Under-Rated Organ* (Scribe Publications, £14.99) is a hugely informative and also entertaining look at a part of the body that we should stop ignoring.

NATURAL MINERAL BLEACH releases oxygen to lift stains and doesn't contain chlorine, so is gentle on skin as well as the environment. Try Home Scents & Violet's Earth Friendly Bleach (£6.95 for 500g, homescents.co.uk), produced in Northumberland. For more tips and products, see netdoctor.co.uk.

NATURE'S MEDICINE CARINET

Parsley Don't leave the garnish on the side of your plate. As well as being a great way to flavour food instead of salt, parsley is packed with vitamin C for the immune system. Chew a few leaves after a meal to help freshen breath, and parsley tea, a pleasant alternative to mint, is also good for aiding digestion. If summer evenings in the garden have resulted in insect bites, apply a poultice of the herb - it was traditionally used to relieve bites and stings, as well as bumps and bruises. Parsley doesn't need to be consumed in large quantities - just add a few leaves to a salad or



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WORDS BY KATE LANGRISH

LAVENDER

The Welsh hillsides don't immediately spring to mind when you think of lavender fields, but they are home to Welsh Lavender, which produces the heavenly scented Farmers' range (welshlavender.com). With the flowers planted and harvested by Nancy Durham (Purple Heaven in the Hills, CL August 2013) and products formulated by Helen Lowe (Beauty and the Bees, CL July 2011), the result is a winning combination – intensely hydrating creams and balms that harness the healing effect of lavender. Try Farmers' Hand Cream (£12) and Farmers' Scrub (£14).



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garden and nature reserve (weleda. co.uk). "There is a herb garden, fields, meadows, woodland and ponds," says Claire, who cares for the land according to biodynamic principles. "Plants, especially the ones we need for our products, do better grown in the right environment. We harvest everything by hand, which means we can even be specific about which part we use for example, we harvest the camomile flowers, roots and leaves at different times of year." The delicate Viola tricolor used in Weleda Skin Food (£9.95) is grown in small quantities; calendula is the one variety planted out

soothing and gentle, which is why the range we make with it is good for babies but also adults who have sensitive skin," Claire explains. Try Weleda Calendula Face Cream (£7.95).

PERRY PEAR

A perry pear will only flourish within sight of May Hill, so they say, which could explain why Gloucestershire has more than 100 cultivars of the fruit. It's the Yellow Huffcap variety that features in Noble Isle Perry Pear Shampoo (£18) and Conditioner (£20), rich in vitamin C and copper for healthy-looking hair. The pears are grown in the orchards of Day's Cottage, members of the Gloucestershire Orchard Trust, an organisation dedicated to conserving the area's traditional plots (nobleisle.com).

cleansing benefits in the new Delicious Rhubarb & Rose Bath & Shower Gel (£18), Body Lotion (£25) and Replenishing Hand Cream (£10).

Borage, or starflower, oil has wonderful skin-nourishing qualities. It plays an important role in Elemis Pro-Collagen Cleansing Balm (£39.50) - a fragrant product that gently but effectively dissolves make-up and grime - and is sourced from a conservation-friendly farm in East Anglia (elemis.com).

in the fields. "This flower is wonderfully



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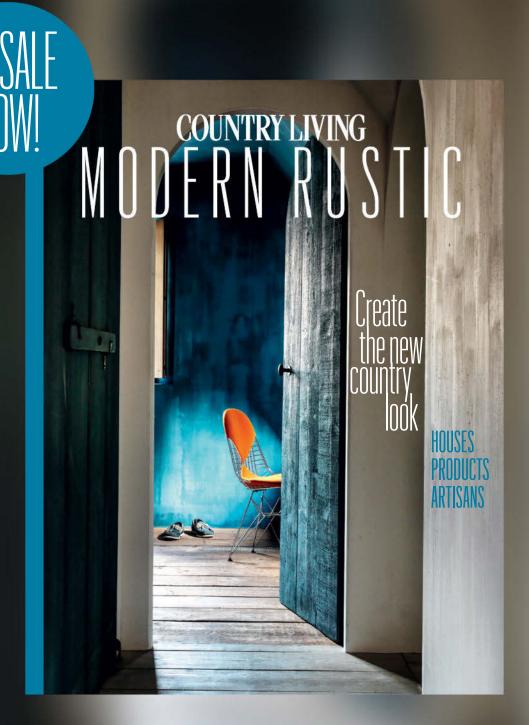
Available in a choice of 35 fabrics, the *Country Living* Gower range from DFS represents traditional British craftsmanship at its best

THE GOWER SOFA MADE BY DFS for *Country Living* is a classic design, featuring brushed cotton/linen union upholstery with elegant arms, that works equally well in traditional or more up-to-date settings. In this living room, neutral shades and simple, rustic accessories create a contemporary look – the planking on the walls and the folding screen, which imitates the appearance of old packing cases, have echoes of the modern rustic style that is currently very much in vogue. Here, we have teamed a plain large natural sofa with a natural check armchair and matching rectangular footstool – all from the Gower range. Touches of texture and subtle colour have been added in the form of throws, rugs, sheepskins and a selection of cotton and linen cushions,

which work beautifully together, linked by a muted palette. The overall feeling is one of warmth, comfort and, above all, calm.

The Gower sofa is available in three sizes – medium, large and grand – and later this month an indulgently comfortable, luxurious corner version is being introduced. You can choose from 35 fabric colours for the cover, including 13 stripes, seven checks, seven plains, five plaids and three shades of leather.

The furniture is designed and made in the UK, with frames crafted from hardwoods, cushions designed for extra comfort and durability, and feet turned from quality woods, including beech and oak. For more information about the *Country Living* furniture range at DFS, visit dfs.co.uk/countryliving.



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Create a welcoming outdoor space with elegant furniture and accessories

The sturdy steel frame of this gun-metal grey arch creates an ornate focal point, is ideal for supporting climbing plants and is easy to assemble. It measures W114cm x D50cm x H206cm; planter measures D50cm x W50cm x H28cm. CL price £125, plus £4.95 p&p



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JACK AND JILL BENCH

This quirky bench has two seats that can be set up to face each other or to enjoy the same view. A table with a shelf and hole for a parasol is also included. Made from steel box tubing in gun-metal grey, each seat has a water-resistant cushion with removable covers. Measures W166cm x D50cm x H82cm (seat D42cm x W52cm; table W53.5cm x D50cm x H60cm). CL price £160, plus £4.95 p&p

WEATHER STATION

This elegant three-in-one weather station features a floral and bird design. It has an integrated clock, thermometer and hydrometer to measure the temperature and humidity in your garden. Available in rustic antique bronze or cream.



Requires 1 x AA battery but comes complete with wall fixings. Measures L64cm x H44cm x D4.5cm (clock face 18.5cm). CL price £42, plus £3.95 p&p



ARCH WITH BENCH

This ornamental arch with antiqued dark copper finish is easy to assemble, it comes with securing plates for pegging to the lawn or bolting to the patio. Measures H213cm x W122cm x D52cm; seat size: W118cm x D48cm. CL price £160, plus

TAKE AN AMERICAN CITY BREAK OR SOAK UP THE SUNSHINE IN EUROPE

Enjoy autumn in New York or the dramatic landscapes of Gran Canaria



NEW YORK

With Times Square, the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building, New York is home to some of the world's most iconic sights. Explore the many districts of the city while visiting these fascinating places and enjoy a stroll through Central Park. No trip would be complete without seeing a show on Broadway and going to some of the world-class museums, including MoMA and the Guggenheim. Finally, experience the exciting bars, cafés and restaurants catering to every taste.

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- Five nights' room-only accommodation at the four-star Night Hotel Times Square
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GRAN CANARIA

The stunning scenery of Gran Canaria ranges from sparkling golden sands to verdant forests and dramatic mountains. The island also offers superb architecture in the capital city of Las Palmas as well as plenty of shopping opportunities. The southern coast is known for its beautiful beaches and your hotel is located close to the striking Maspalomas sand dunes and two excellent golf courses – the Meloneras and Maspalomas. **Seven**

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DISCOVER EUROPE'S TREASURES

Experience the splendour of Italy's lakes and mountains or the beauty of the Balkans

This tour is a blend of some of the finest sights in northern Italy. Explore Lake Garda, where the snow-capped Dolomites provide a stunning backdrop. Move on to the beautiful World Heritage Site of Venice, with its cultural delights such as the Doge's Palace, St Mark's Basilica and the Grand Canal. Lastly, visit Verona, the setting for Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Selected departures up to October 2015 and from April to October 2016. Eight days' half-board from only £599pp

Fully escorted price includes:

- Return flights from Birmingham, Bristol, Dublin, East Midlands, Edinburgh, London Gatwick,

- Guided sightseeing tour of medieval Verona
- Tour of the Dolomites with some of the world's finest Alpine scener
- Guided sightseeing tour of Venice Services of an experienced
- tour manage

The Romans, Byzantians, Venetians and the Hapsburgs have all left their mark on the Balkan region of eastern Europe. From the fascinating walled city of Dubrovnik in Croatia and the iconic bridge at Mostar in Bosnia-Herzegovina to the dramatic and unspoilt Dalmatian coastline, with its clear waters, and the traditional villages of Montenegro, this region has a wonderful blend of historic sites and striking landscapes. Selected departures up to October 2015 and from April to October 2016.

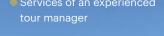
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- Visit to Krka National Park and its series of stunning waterfalls and lakes
- Tour the dramatic Dalmatian coastline, which is home to perfectly preserved Venetian villages
- Visit to Mostar, setting of the iconic 16th-century bridge and once Europe's border with the Ottoman Empire
- Tour of Montenegro, with its walled towns, stunning national parks, striking coastline and pretty fishing villages
- Visit to Split and the ruins of Emperor Diocletian's monumental palace, one of the greatest of ancient Roman structures, where 3,000 people once lived
- Trip to medieval Trogir, an attractive port







ake Garda

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Take a winter sun holiday to Malta, Madeira or Cyprus from £489 per person

VALLETTA, MDINA & THE WONDERS OF MALTA

With sparkling seas, hidden coves and prehistoric temples, step back in time on Malta to visit quiet countryside villages, the enchanting 17th-century capital of Valletta, medieval Mdina, known as 'the silent city', or Gozo, Malta's sister island, with its beautiful beaches and traditional eateries. Departures from November 2015 to April 2016. Eight days from £539pp

Fully escorted price includes:

- Tours and visits to Valletta, Gozo, Mdina, Mosta and The Three Cities
- Traditional Maltese evening
- Seven nights' three-star superior, half-board accommodation (fourstar upgrade available for a supplement)
- Return flights
- Coach travel and transfers
- Services of an experienced tour manager

MADEIRA

Madeira offers the perfect climate for a year-round holiday, from the flower-filled capital of Funchal with its botanical gardens to *levada* walks along the mini canals of the island's old irrigation system. Plus, enjoy traditional Madeiran food, take trips to the pretty seaside settlements in the west of the island and then explore the forested east. Departures from November 2015 to April 2016. **Eight days from £629pp**

Fully escorted price includes:

- Tour of capital Funchal and the botanical gardens
- Madeiran food evening
- Tours of the island's western and eastern regions
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- Return scheduled flights
- Coach travel and transfers
- Services of an experienced tour manager





CYPRUS

Based in Paphos, with its UNESCO-listed old town, this winter break includes three excursions to experience the best of Cyprus. Discover Paphos's ancient history, see the snow-capped Troödos Mountains and take a trip to the capital city of Nicosia. Plus, visit the village of Lefkara, famous for its lace. Departures from November 2015 to April 2016. Eight days' half-board from £489pp

Fully escorted price includes:

- Paphos walking tour
- Tour of the Troödos Mountains
- Visit to the capital Nicosia
- Discover inland village Lefkara
- Seven nights' half-board at the three-star Paphos Gardens Holiday Resort (four-star upgrade available for a supplement)
- Return flights
- Air-conditioned coach travel and transfers
- Services of an experienced tour manager



TO BOOK

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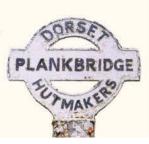


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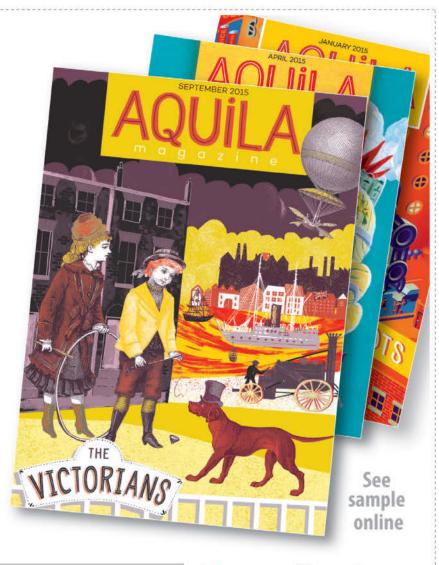
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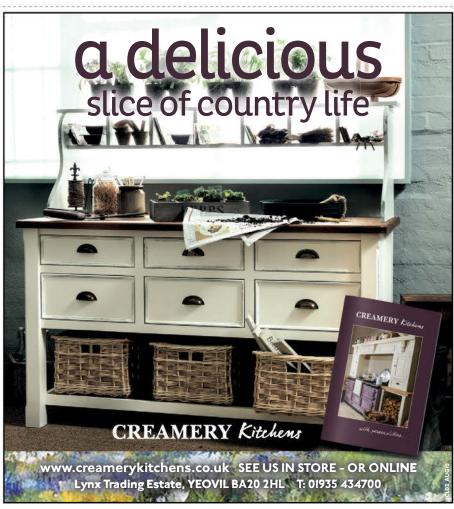
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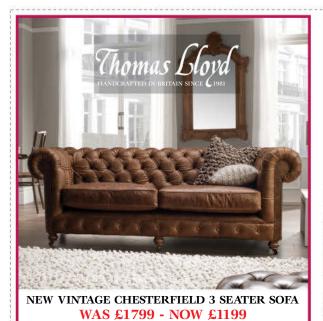
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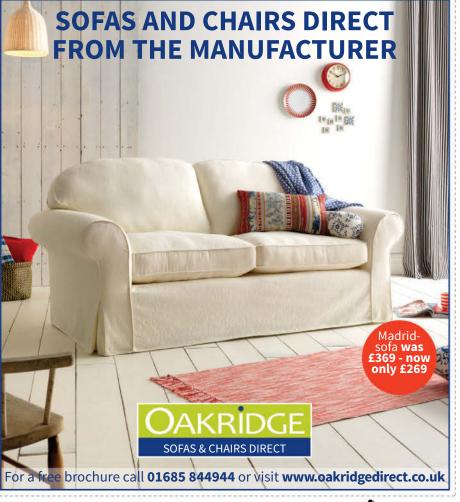
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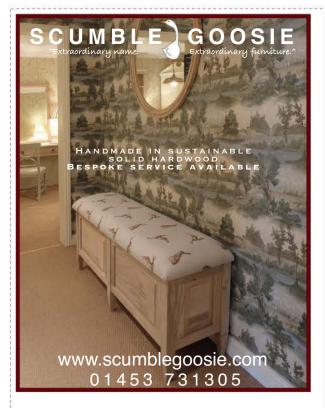
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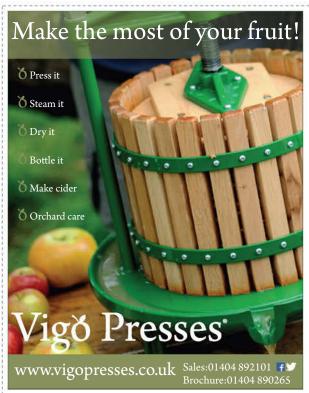




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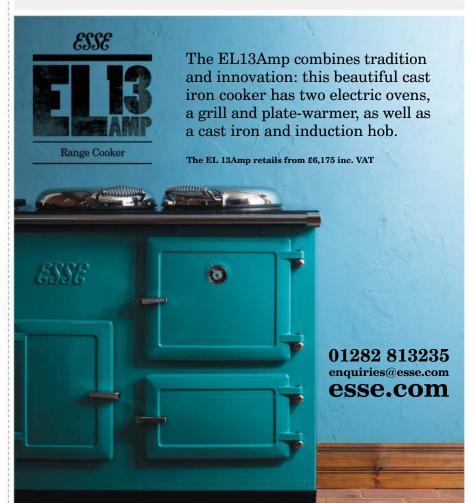
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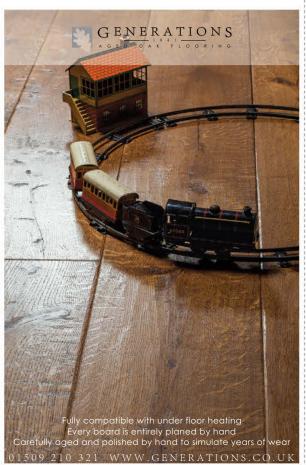


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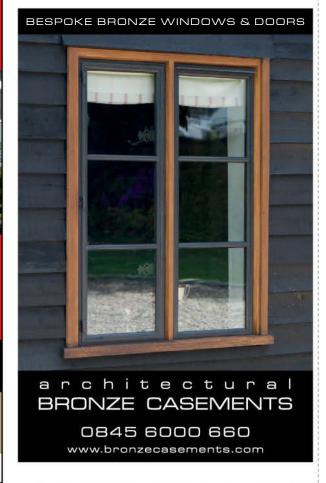
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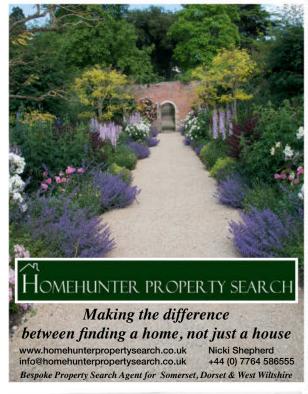


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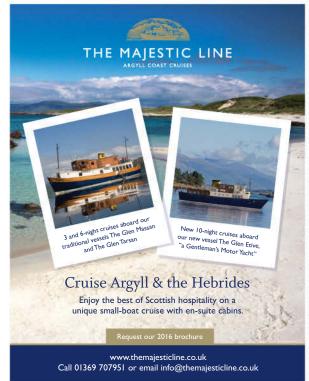
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CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT Deborah keeps horses, and a menagerie of other animals, at her home in Somerset; the heather-clad hills and sandy beaches are perfect for horse riding

MY COUNTRYSIDE DEBORAH MEADEN

The *Dragon's Den* entrepreneur is horse-mad and adores riding along the Somerset beaches

When I was about seven years old, I helped out with the ponies along

Minehead seafront in Somerset during a family holiday. As a reward, we were allowed to ride them back through the fields. Since then, my love of animals has always gone hand-in-hand with my passion for the countryside.

Despite wanting ponies of my own after that, living in London meant it wasn't an option for years. However, after moving to Somerset, I've made up for lost time – my husband Paul and I have taken on one cat, three dogs, five horses, Il chickens, four ducks and three very angry geese.

Surrounded by our menagerie, we have restored an old farmhouse and, determined to return it to its former glory, have slowly peeled back layers of wallpaper and paint.

At the start of my career, I lived in Italy for a time and when I reminisce, I imagine it in lovely sepia tones, but as I look

through my window here and watch the sun set over the Somerset landscape,

there's no comparison. I divide my time

between London
and the south-west,
and, although I
enjoy the energy
and vibrancy a
city can offer, in
the countryside
my shoulders go
down and I breathe
well. I have my
animals around me
and I enjoy the space

and I enjoy the space and fresh air. Sometimes I feel

as though I fly through life. I'm very busy doing lots of different things and meeting people, but when I come back to Somerset I put my feet back on the ground and, through spending time with the animals and grooming my horses, I feel totally connected to what's going on. I've had my heart-is-going-to-burst days here, when I've been riding my horse, looking out across the countryside and thinking, 'It does not get better than this'.

I enjoy exploring the rest of the UK, but I always find myself gravitating back to the south-west. Paul and I toyed with the idea of buying some woodland, but decided we'd rather explore other areas and really get to know the countryside. We've travelled all over Exmoor and Dartmoor, down to Cornwall and into parts of Wales. You can't beat rural Britain on a sunny day. In fact, we've stopped going away in the summer altogether as we just want to be here to make the most of it – Paul and I sat out at home one night and counted 99 shooting stars.

One of the beautiful things about Britain is the changing seasons. It is wonderful in summer but I also love

the frosty clear days of winter or the vivid greens and soft rain

of spring. I'm quite a restless person and I appreciate the constant shift. In

September I love looking out into my garden every day, watching the turning colours and seeing something different. At this time of year you just sense that everything is getting

ready for winter, even the horses, even me.

Deborah Meaden is an ambassador for Hoof, the participation programme of the British Equestrian Federation, which aims to get more people horse riding. For further details, visit hoofride.co.uk.





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COUNTRY LIVING

COUNTRY KITCHENS & BATHROOMS

DECORATING IDEAS AND PRACTICAL ADVICE







KITCHENS AND BATHROOMS are probably the most difficult areas of the home to decorate. Space can often be in short supply and there needs to be just the right balance between style and practicality. This little magazine is packed with ideas

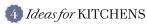
and planning tips to help you make the best choices for your property. Whether you prefer the paredback modern rustic look with its pale, chalky palette or more traditional designs with stronger colours and decorative touches, you will find plenty to fire your imagination, plus a handy directory of suppliers at the back. Happy decorating!

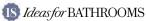
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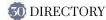
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Co-ordinating editor Louise Elliott Writer Caroline Atkins Art director Darren Holdway Designers Seija Tikkis, Terry Wallace Chief sub-editor Michele Jameson Picture editor Patricia Taylor

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Planning a KITCHEN

HOW TO CREATE YOUR DREAM SPACE







Fitted and freestanding furniture sits happily side by side when painted a unifying colour (right). A scrubbed pine table and a glazed dresser cabinet will contribute to a farmhouse effect, while open shelves provide display

space as well as useful storage.

Traditional-style cabinets can be designed to give you built-in storage slots for essential items such as ironing boards and trays. The plain wood of the tray sides (below) is a contrasting feature amid the pale blue paintwork of the surrounding unit.





🦍 Hanging all the essentials

of a classic batterie de cuisine on a wellplaced rail will make even the simplest country kitchen as sleek and efficient as a chef's centre of operations. Stainless steel and chrome add a high-tech touch amid mellow wood surfaces.







The latest designs

introduce unexpected new colours such as pretty pink (left) for painted cabinets. Combine with contrasting worktops in marble or granite and occasional touches of plain wood, and pick up a similar shade for practical ceramics and pastel enamelware.

For an updated refectory style,

mix different wood surfaces with dark paintwork and midcentury steel-framed chairs, reminiscent of old school dining rooms (above). Here, a tabletop made from scaffold planks easily seats ten people, while storage is in galleystyle cupboards.



tall stools converts it into a breakfast bar for quick meals.



VINTAGE COOL

Classic ceramic tiles in blue and cream evoke the calming feel of a 1930s dairy. Match them with vintage or salvaged furniture





Some of the cleverest new kitchens use

curved cabinets (above) to create a sleek line while at the same time leaving more floor space. Subtle paintwork keeps the effect mellow, with just a gleam of chrome or brushed steel.

Plain white tiles have a functional simplicity that

works well in kitchens and utility rooms, especially if arranged like bricks (right). Use them to line a walk-in cupboard or larder to present a background for jars and ingredients.

Keep your kitchen windows clear of unnecessary fabric by fitting the

recess with neat pull-up blinds or clean-lined wooden shutters rather than curtains.







Decorative touches such as turned woodwork, elegant panelling and designer handles (left) add an individual, crafted feel. For a more streamlined effect, confine it to a single area - for example, a dresser unit - and contrast with plainer cabinets.

A combination of rough-textured surfaces with sleek. paintwork and stainless steel gives this kitchen (above left) a functional, loft-style look. The brickwork and solid wooden beam are offset by the neat lines of the units and square cut of the table.





A stone scullery-style sink (right) has roughsurfaced charm that goes with terracotta pots and galvanised buckets. Install it. alongside drawers of different sizes (for string, scissors and seed packets as well as everyday kitchen essentials), with a row of useful pegs above it.

Well-planned cabinets, spanning a whole wall like a draper's shop (below right), will provide storage for everything from larder supplies to ceramics and glassware. Include tailor-made drawers of different depths for cutlery and pans, and baskets for linens and vegetables.





ABOVE Ceramic tiles for walls and floors add areas of pattern; £2.99 each, Fired Earth (firedearth.com)

This neat semicircular end cabinet (below) provides additional storage and the worksurface extends to create more useful space, with no hard edges. The soft green works well against the pale brick flooring.



A traditional range cooker creates a focal point and a source of warmth in any kitchen (below). It comes in a variety of colours, but classic cream or white will never go out of style and can be fitted into a run of painted or bare wooden units. Add a ceiling rack to air tea towels and keep other items to hand.

The best kitchens make use of all the available space. Island units (right) are a great way of adding more worktops and storage - even an additional sink or hob. A deep alcove can also be lined with shelves from floor to ceiling to create a larder cupboard.





Planning a BATHROOM

DESIGN TIPS FOR A HARMONIOUS HAVEN





The best bathrooms fulfil a dual role of practical washroom and tranquil sanctuary. Deciding which will take priority is partly a question of the available space and partly about who will use it. A family bathroom will benefit from neat surfaces and plenty of storage, while an en-suite is a chance to create a more indulgent retreat, but might not have the space to let you pursue all your imaginative ideas. If you're redecorating a current bathroom, keeping the main fittings where there is existing plumbing for them will save cost and upheaval; if you're converting a spare bedroom, you may want to preserve features such as picture rails and fireplaces to give the new bathroom architectural character. Where space is short, look for wall-hung basins and storage to keep the floor area clear, and wall-mounted taps to maximise any shelf surface provided by the basin itself. Look out for new materials such as stone or slate for splashbacks, and if you're lucky enough to have the room, enjoy the drama of deep, freestanding baths, consoletable basins and glamorous gilded façades.





An armoire or dresser provides a laundry store and makes the room feel less clinical (below). Bring extra warmth and atmosphere with deep, rich tones, and introduce other textures such as rugs and woven baskets.

Roll-top baths can be painted in your choice of colour to match or contrast with furnishings. Along with the white walls, panelling and floorboards, this fresh, cool blue (right) makes a small room feel light and airy.

Install a decorative console basin (below right) to provide a focal point for an en-suite bathroom. Add a pretty mirror above it for a washstand effect.











Hand-milled soaps and other bathroom treats add fragrance and colour. Keep a supply to scent the room and give to guests.



Counter-top basins (left) have reinvented the old-fashioned washstand. They can provide a cosmetics drawer and a lowlevel shelf for storing laundry and cleaning supplies, as well as plenty of room for toiletries. A row of wall pegs is handy for towels and bathrobes. Tradition needn't mean a lack of efficiency. This classic bath (above left) is accompanied by twin showers, with enough space for the enclosure to feel like a full-size wetroom. Grand lighting and elegant fittings give the whole area a sense of luxury.

TILE STYLE

Jade-green tiles (right) contrast with black in a classic wall of Art Deco styling - a chic console basin adds to the 1930s effect.

High-level cisterns

with old-fashioned ceramic hand-pulls (below) convey a touch of tradition in an age of concealed plumbing. This one conjures up extra drama, with a gilded finish to match the mirror frame.







Pale-wood furniture designed on contemporary lines is an easy match for plain white ceramics and linens (right), and creates a practical, locker-room look for a prettier effect, introduce pastelcoloured towels and paint shades. Slim-fitting cabinets and washstands provide neat, spacesaving storage in small bathrooms.

A slab of slate makes a distinctive splashback for a contemporary, square basin (far right). Wall-mounted tap fittings mean the basin surround itself is left clear to use as a counter-top shelf for toiletries and cosmetics, while a mirrored panel set into the alcove above reflects maximum light back into the room.







Where space is short, fixing wallhung shelves and fittings (left) keeps the floor area clear and helps the room to feel bigger. Make the most of vertical storage, keeping the furniture neat and streamlined and the colours cool and simple.

Traditional wooden wall panelling and a smart black-and-white tiled floor (above left) provide an elegant background for a bâteau bath with a copper exterior. An Art Deco-style cabinet supplies storage beneath the basin, while open shelving holds essentials.

MODERN ELEGANCE

Combine a contemporary-style bowl (right) with traditional details such as wood panelling, wall lamps and a woven linen basket for a classic effect.

A wooden stand gives this slimline basin (below) a utilitarian look and frees up floor space. The frame acts as an additional towel rail, while the extended surround of the sink provides shelving for toiletries and cosmetics.



NEPTUNE









ABOVE Look for interesting finishes, adding accessories that supply their own character, such as this slate soap dispenser, £11, West Elm (westelm.co.uk)

COLOUR SPLASH

Strong shades not usually associated with bathroom furnishings add an invigorating touch (left). Here, a pink radiator matches the print of the wallpaper.

Reflective surfaces create a glamorous effect. This luxurious silvered bath (below). on elaborate claw feet, is matched by a gleaming ladder radiator. For an extra flourish, add mirrored Art Decostyle furniture if you have the space.

A slight ripple in the surface of these subtly coloured tiles (right) gives the wall a liquid shimmer ideal for bathrooms. A triple mirror reflects the sheen of the glaze, while the matt basin and the distressed finish of the washstand add contrast.





director



TCHENS

BAILEYS (01989 561931: bailevshome.com) Freestanding storage pieces, recycled wooden crates, steel trolleys, factory fittings and industrial lockers. Also great for sinks. taps and practical accessories, utensils, glassware and ceramics. Online store and farm-based shop just outside Ross-on-Wye in Herefordshire. **BRITISH STANDARD (020 7870** 7688; britishstandardcupboards. co.uk) An affordable, off-theshelf range by the makers of Plain English kitchens, with simple cabinets supplied unpainted ready for customers to collect, fit and finish for themselves. Made in Suffolk, with a London showroom displaying sample designs. **DEVOL** (01509 261000; devolkitchens.co.uk) Design-led furniture company founded by two Loughborough University

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Dressers and freestanding

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or unfinished, in a range of sizes and styles with open shelves or glazed doors. MARK WILKINSON (01380 850007: markwilkinson.co.uk) Elegant kitchens with meticulous attention to detail, including fitted or freestanding larders providing lots of organised storage space. A complete design and supply service. with advice on colours. flooring and worksurfaces. NEPTUNE (01793 427300: neptune. com) Classic painted and natural oak designs combining traditional elegance with contemporary lines and incorporating freestanding pieces. Also supplies sleek industrial-style pendant lights. PLAIN ENGLISH (0870 240 3562: plainenglishdesign.co.uk) Traditional joinery company using 18th- and 19th-century cabinet-making techniques to create handmade cupboards from its Suffolk workshop. Authentic designs and contemporary updates. SMALLBONE (020 7589 5998: smallbone.co.uk) Handmade kitchens built using timeless skills and techniques, at workshops based for 35 years in the Wiltshire market town of Devizes. A collection of classic designs, plus individual pieces such as dressers and larders. Bespoke commissions. TOM HOWLEY (0161 848 1200: tomhowley.co.uk) Bespoke kitchens in a range of painted and natural woods. Smart designs, including island units, dresser units and glazed cabinets. WREN KITCHENS (wrenkitchens. com) Classic, Shaker and modern fitted kitchens in a range of prices and styles. plus flooring, appliances and lighting.



BATHSTORE (0330 024 0845:

bathstore.com) Huge range of baths, basins and taps in all styles and materials, plus cabinet furniture, vanity units. taps and other accessories. Always worth checking for online sales and reductions. CATCHPOLE & RYE (020 7351 0940: catchpoleandrye.com) Dramatically individual cast-iron baths in a choice of finishes (including authentic antiques refurbished as new), along with elegant washstands, traditional

taps, high-level cisterns and heated towel rails. CP HART (0845 873 1121: cphart. co.uk) Offers a full design service and elegant bathroom furniture, from streamlined inset baths to dramatic freestanding shapes, basins, bowls, washstands and cabinets. Brands include Duravit sanitaryware, Bisque radiators and Matki showers. DRUMMONDS (020 7376 4499: drummonds-uk.com) Classic cast-iron baths, hand-finished porcelain basins and a range of stylish washstands, including single and double vanity units. Plus traditional taps and mixers with lever or capstan-head fittings. **DURAVIT** (duravit.co.uk) Huge choice of bathroom fittings in all styles, from 1930s Art Deco shapes to modern pieces by designers such as Philippe Starck and Norman Foster. FIRED EARTH (0845 366 0400; firedearth.com) Baths and basins in beautiful shapes and materials, including marble, stone and metallic finishes. Great for washstand and console basins, as well as freestanding furniture. accessories, and wall and floor tiles. HERITAGE BATHROOMS (0330 026 8501: heritagebathrooms.com) Classic bathroom designs,

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